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THE HINDU

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Siraj, Bairstow shine; India 125/3 in second innings, leads by 257
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NEARBY

Whitefield line likely to benefit 3L commuters

BENGALURU

Once the Baiyappanahalli-Whitefield line opens for commercial operations, Namma Metro services will receive an additional ridership of 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh, it is estimated.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Labour camp: Two more FIRs registered

BENGALURU

The Varthur Police registered two more FIRs against land owners and residents of the Thubarahalli labour camp in Varthur on Sunday, drawing the ire of residents and activists, who have alleged that the FIRs were an arm-twisting tactic being deployed by agencies to evict them from the land.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Numismatist's depiction of the Bahmani Sultans

KALABURAGI

The Gulbarga Bahmani Numismatics Research and Educational Trust recently published a book titled 'A Legacy of Bahmani Sultans through coins' authored by numismatist Mohammad Ismail in which he depicts the numismatic journey of the Bahmani Sultans.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 6

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGES 4 & 5

BJP nominee elected Speaker in Maharashtra; trust vote today

Eknath Shinde government requires the support of 145 MLAs in the Assembly

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Setting the stage for a legal battle between the two factions of the Shiv Sena, Rahul Narvekar of the BJP was elected Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly on Sunday. He got 164 votes against the 107 won by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) nominee Rajan Salvi, a Sena MLA from Rajapur in Ratnagiri district.

The two-day Assembly session was convened to elect the new Speaker. The Sena faction led by new Chief Minister Eknath Shinde supported Mr. Narvekar.

First test

The Speaker's election was the first test in the Assembly faced by Mr. Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

The new government, formed after Mr. Shinde rebelled against Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, will face the trust vote on Monday.

In the 287-member Assembly (original strength of 288 reduced by one following the death of one Sena MLA), the government will require the support of 145 MLAs. Going by the happenings during the Speaker's election, the trust vote could be a mere formality.

On Sunday, after the House was convened, Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal announced the programme of Speaker's election as directed by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari. In a sarcastic tone, Nationalist Congress party (NCP) leader Jayant Patil congratulated the Governor for giving the go-ahead to the election after the formation of a new government.

"For more than a year and a half, he did not allow us to conduct the election. Now we understand the reason for it," Mr. Patil said.

BJP MLA Chandrakant Patil presented the resolution nominating Mr. Narvekar for the Speaker's post, seconded by Girish Mahajan. The MVA fielded Mr. Salvi as its candidate.

The BJP's resolution was accepted by voice vote and Mr. Zirwal directed head count of those in support and in opposition.

Mr. Narvekar, who represents the high-profile Colaba constituency in south Mumbai, is the youngest-ever Speaker of Maharashtra. An advocate and former Shiv Sena leader, who was a mentor to Aaditya Thackeray in law studies, he later joined the NCP and contested the Maval Lok Sabha seat in 2014.

Prior to the 2019 election, he switched to the BJP and contested from the Colaba Assembly constituency. He is the son-in-law of senior NCP leader and Chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, Ramraje Naik-Nimbalkar.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Vote count

After the two-day special session of the Maharashtra Assembly commenced at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Rahul Narvekar of the BJP was elected its Speaker. Here is how the House voted:

- BJP's Rahul Narvekar polled 164 votes
- Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena candidate Rajan Salvi got 107 votes
- The Shiv Sena has 55 MLAs in the House. Sixteen MLAs from the Thackeray-led camp voted against Narvekar, while 39 voted for him
- Out of the 287 legislators, 271 voted, while three MLAs - Rais Shaikh, Abu Azmi (both of the Samajwadi Party) and Shah Farukh (AIMIM) - abstained from voting
- As many as 12 MLAs did not attend the Speaker's election. Two of them - Laxman Jagtap and Mukta Tilak (of the BJP)- are ill. Two NCP legislators - Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik - are in jail in connection with money laundering cases. Five other NCP MLAs - Dattatray Bharane, Anna Bansode, Nilesh Lanke, Dilip Mohite and Babandada Shinde - did not show up

Newly elected: Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and his deputy, Devendra Fadnavis, congratulate newly elected Speaker Rahul Narvekar during the Assembly session at the Vidhan Bhavan on Sunday. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

Tribal woman in M.P. set ablaze over land dispute

Victim's kin say police protection was denied despite pleas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RAIPUR

A 38-year-old tribal woman is battling for life after being set ablaze allegedly by a group of people, including two women, for resisting their bid to encroach upon her family land in the Guna area of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. She is being treated for burns at Hamidia Hospital in Bhopal and her condition is said to be critical.

Rampyari Bai belongs to the Saharia tribe, a particularly vulnerable tribal group. Her family claims that it had sought police protection following threats by the accused, but was denied the same.

A video of the incident – in which the woman is seen ablaze on a field at Dhanoria village of Bamori – has gone viral. It is not clear if the video was shot by the accused themselves or some passers-by.

Ms. Rampyari Bai's husband, Arjun Saharia, said he had seen three fellow villagers – Pratap, Hanumat, Shyam Kirar – fleeing the spot in a tractor along with their family members.

His wife later told the police that six persons – the three mentioned above, one person called Pandit and two women – had poured diesel and set her ablaze before escaping the spot.

The spot of the crime is six bighas (2.4 acres) of land that the victim's family claims legally belongs to them.

On Saturday afternoon, the accused were ploughing the land, when Ms. Rampyari Bai reached the field and objected to it. It was then that they allegedly poured diesel and set her ablaze.

The land, Mr. Saharia said, was allotted to them under a Chief Minister's welfare scheme launched by the erstwhile Digvijaya Singh government. A dispute with the accused over the ownership of the land was settled by the local administration in their favour in May, he added.

Nearly a week before the incident, on June 23, he had reportedly sought security from the police claiming that his life was under threat. However, no action was taken.

He said he was attacked by the same set of people earlier too and a first information report (FIR) had been filed. However, no action was taken on the matter either.

Superintendent of Police, Guna, Pankaj Srivastava told presspersons that an FIR had been registered and two of the three accused had been taken into custody. The accused had denied the allegations, and claimed that the woman had immolated herself.

The incident has brought the spotlight on the vulnerability of the tribals who comprise 22% of the State's population.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Rampyari Bai was set ablaze over a land dispute in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Deadly layer

Cost of convenience: Single-use plastic items piled up at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi on Friday. The Union government has banned the manufacture, import, distribution and sale of single-use plastic from July 1. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Telangana needs twin-engine govt.: PM

At Hyderabad meet, Modi says people of the State aspire for such a dispensation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The skies were dark with thick cloud cover and there were intermittent showers, but they stopped by the time Prime Minister Narendra Modi rose to give his speech, where he offered a development road map for Telangana, addressing the mammoth gathering at the Parade Grounds here on Sunday.

"People of Telangana have already paved the road for electing the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] to power in the State and the enthusiasm of the crowds which have come from various districts is a reflection of that," the Prime Minister said.

There had been progress and development across the country in the past eight years as the BJP government strove to make people's lives better and brought about a number of welfare schemes benefiting all sections of society without any discrimination, he said.

'Fillip for innovation'

"The Telangana people too desire the same with a 'double engine' government as this region has a hoary past of tales of valour, courage and sacrifice from the times of Rani Rudrama Devi to Komaram Bheem and others. There is lot of culture, arts and crafts and lot of talent and this can be brought forth with fillip being given to innovation and technology by this government," Mr. Modi said.

He began his speech in Telugu conveying his '*namaskarams*' to Telangana brothers and sisters, sending the crowd into a frenzy. The party had taken a conscious decision to hold the national meeting in Hyderabad as it discussed steps to take the country's development forward with self-reliance as the abiding theme.

Measured speech

In a measured speech, which was strikingly different from the one he had given at the Begumpet airport a month ago when he had lashed out at the TRS government and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) for "corruption, family rule and tyranny", Mr. Modi totally avoided taking the name or criticising the State government or KCR.

The Prime Minister only went to the extent of stating that the aspirations of the Telangana people could be served much better with the BJP government here and at the Centre with its "*sabka saath, sabka vikas* and *sab ka vishwas*" motto.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Future course: Narendra Modi and other leaders during a party meeting in Hyderabad on Sunday. • RAMAKRISHNA G

After fall of city, Russia stakes claim to Luhansk

Zelensky refuses to accede territory

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

Russia claimed control on Sunday over the last Ukrainian stronghold in an eastern province that is key to achieving a major goal of its grinding war.

Ukraine's General Staff of the military reported that its forces had withdrawn from Lysychansk in Luhansk province, but the President said the fight for the city was ongoing.

If confirmed, Russia's complete seizure of Luhansk would provide its forces a stronger base from which to press their advance in neighboring Donetsk province and bring them one step closer to achieving one of President Vladimir Putin's major goals: capturing the entire Donbas.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told Mr. Putin that Russia's troops, with members of a local separatist militia, "have established full control over the city of Lysychansk" and now hold all of Luhansk, according to a Ministry statement published on Sunday.

Earlier, however, Ukrainian President Volodymr Zelensky said Kyiv's forces were still battling Russian soldiers on the city's outskirts.

"We cannot give you the final judgment. Lysychansk is still being fought for," Mr. Zelensky told a news conference in Kyiv.

ANOTHER REPORT ▸ PAGE 14

Odisha woman has a forest named after her

Acknowledging her work in its upkeep, officials call the four acres Sarojini Vana

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

Sarojini *Vana* (Sarojini Forest) may be mistaken for a memorial to freedom fighter Sarojini Naidu. But this lush land of rich verdure is a celebration of Sarojini Mohanta, 42, a home-grown change-maker who has gone beyond the call of duty to create and nurture a forest on a denuded patch in the Bonai forest division in just two years.

"When the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Sisir Ratho, recently came for an inspection, he was amazed by Ms. Mohanta's dedication that led to the survival of 95% of the saplings planted on the four acres. He suggested naming the forest after her," Sanath Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, said.

Bonai is a mining-affected region. The Forest Division received funds to raise a small forest on the denuded patch. Ms. Mohanta was deployed to look after the plantation for a daily wage of ₹315.

Every plant in the area appears to be in her orbit. She knows which one will wilt if not watered immediately. The dedication made all the difference.

Ms. Mohanta, who lives with her husband, son and daughter-in-law in the nearby Ulsurei village, narrated how difficult it was to ensure the saplings survived. "The land had *murrum* soil (a type of laterite soil). Trees hardly grow in these types of soil. I helped dig pits for each sapling. I made sure that all were watered regularly," she said.

"Cattle from six villages pass near the plantation area to grazing grounds every day. Till they return by evening, I stand guard near the plantation area. There is every chance of cattle straying into the farm."

In a span of two years, over 3,000 fruit-bearing and forest species of trees have begun thriving on the land.

Green touch: Over 3,000 trees have begun thriving on the land looked after by Sarojini Mohanta. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sinha hits out at govt. over school curriculum

'Bid to communalise young generation'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The combined Opposition Presidential candidate, Yashwant Sinha, on Sunday accused the ruling BJP in the State of attempting to "communalise the young generation through coloured curriculum".

"In Karnataka, the government has been attempting to communalise the minds of young generation by introducing a new school curriculum coloured by the ruling party's ideological agenda. I condemn this," he told presspersons here after meeting senior Congress leaders and addressing the Congress Legislature Party meeting as part of support building exercise for his candidature. Mr. Sinha, who in the past was BJP general secretary in charge of Karnataka, said: "I have great admiration for Karnataka because of its rich spiritual heritage and its contribution to India's freedom struggle."

He also recalled the contribution of Basavanna, Kanakadasa, Kuvempu, and Dr. Rajkumar.

Meanwhile, the combined Presidential candidate did not meet the Janata Dal (Secular) leaders here seeking the party's support. To a question if he would meet former Prime Minister and JD (S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda seeking support, Mr. Sinha said: "Unfortunately not in this trip".

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THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Record high deficit

48.66 In billion dollars, is Pakistan's trade deficit in the outgoing fiscal year, an all-time high, up from $30.96 billion a year ago. The trade deficit reached an alarming level despite a ban on more than 800 non-essential luxury items in May by the Shehbaz Sharif government. The trade deficit has been on the rise owing to an unprecedented increase in imports due to the rise in global commodity prices, while exports have stagnated to around $2.5 billion to $2.8 billion a month. PTI

Terror in the valley

64 The percentage of youth who joined terror ranks in Jammu and Kashmir and were killed by security forces within a year. Citing data of terrorists neutralised between January 1 and May 31 this year, the officials said that only 26.6% of terror recruits lasted more than 12 months, while the fate of 9.3% of them were not known. South Kashmir continues to be the hotbed of terrorism in the valley as the region saw 59 terrorist killings by security forces in the first five months of this year compared to 31 such killings in central and north Kashmir. PTI

Adoption slowdown

16,000 The number of prospective parents who have been waiting for over three years to adopt a child. The officials attributed the slowdown to the availability of fewer children who are legally free for adoption. As of June 28, there are 3,596 children legally free for adoption, including 1,380 with special needs. According to official data, there are 2,971 children living in specialised adoption agencies who fall under the category of being "not adoptable". PTI

Banking frauds

118 The number of fraud cases in private as well as public sector banks (PSBs) in FY22, down from 265 in 2020-21. Frauds in the banking sector involving sums of over ₹100 crore have declined, with banks reporting cases worth ₹41,000 crore in 2021-22 compared to ₹1.05 lakh crore in the previous year. For PSBs, the total number of fraud cases declined to 80 from 167 in FY21, while for private banks cases reduced to 38 from 98 in FY22. In terms of cumulative amount, it has come down to ₹28,000 crore from ₹65,900 crore for PSBs. PTI

Setting a new record

8:57.19 The time taken by Indian runner Parul Chaudhary in the women's 3000m event to create a new national record. Chaudhary smashed the national record at the Sound Running meet in Los Angeles as she became the first athlete from the country to clock a sub-nine-minute time while finishing third on Saturday night. With her latest effort, Chaudhary broke Suriya Loganathan's record of 9:04.5s, set six years ago in New Delhi. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Strains on India-Russia defence cooperation

Which are some of the major deals with Russia that are either pending or under review? How has the Russian government responded?

DINAKAR PERI

THE GIST

- As the Russia-Ukraine conflict stretches on with no clear endgame, there are apprehensions on Russia's ability to adhere to the timelines for both spares and hardware.
- Officials have stated that while some timeline lapses and shipping delays were possible, there would not be any dent on the Army's operational preparedness along the borders especially the Line of Actual Control.
- Russian deals which have been deferred include the one for 21 MiG-29 fighter jets along with the upgradation of 59 existing Mig-29 jets and the manufacture of 12 SU-30 MKI aircraft.

The story so far: As the war in Ukraine stretches over four months with no end in sight, it has given rise to apprehensions on Russia's ability to adhere to timely deliveries of spares and hardware.

What is the status of India-Russia defence cooperation?
When the war began in February, top officers stated that the Indian armed forces have stocks of spares and supplies for eight to ten months and the expectation was that the war would end quickly. However, as it stretches on with no clear endgame, there are apprehensions on Russia's ability to adhere to the timelines for both spares as well as new deliveries.

With Russia being shut out of the SWIFT system, India and Russia have agreed to conduct payments through the Rupee-Rouble arrangement

Responding to questions on this issue in early May, Army Chief Manoj Pande acknowledged the Army's dependency on certain weapon systems specially in the area of air defence, rockets, missiles and certain tanks from Russia and Ukraine and said that as far as the immediate impact was concerned "the supply chain of certain spares and ammunition has got impacted to some extent, but we have adequate stocks to last for a reasonable period of time." He added that they are also looking at certain alternative mitigation measures and identifying alternate sources from friendly foreign countries while in the long term, this is also an opportunity for the private industry to step up production and meet the requirements.

The Defence Ministry and Services have carried out assessments on the possible impact on timely deliveries due to Western sanctions on Russia. Officials have stated that while some timeline lapses and shipping delays were possible, there would not be any dent on the Army's operational preparedness along the borders especially the Line of Actual Control.

In addition, the armed forces have also made significant emergency procurements in the last two years since the standoff in Eastern Ladakh and have stocked up on spares and ammunition. Therefore, there shouldn't be any immediate urgency for spares and other requirements, officials noted. Russia has assured India that it would adhere to delivery timelines. However, as the war stretches on there are apprehensions that it could have an impact as the Russian industry would be caught up in replenishing the inventories of their own armed forces.

What is the status of deals underway/new deals pending with Russia?
The defence trade between India and Russia has crossed $15 billion since 2018, in the backdrop of some big deals including the $5.43 billion S-400 long range air defence systems. Other major contracts currently under implementation are construction of four additional stealth frigates in Russia and India, licensed production of the Mango Armor-piercing fin-stabilised discarding sabot (APFSDS) rounds for the T-90S tanks as also additional T-90S tanks, AK-203 assault rifles among others. However, there is some delay. For instance, the delivery of the second regiment of the S-400 is delayed by a few months as also the operationalisation of the agreement for the manufacture of 6.1 lakh AK-203 rifles at Korwa, Amethi in Uttar Pradesh.

There are also several big ticket deals currently under negotiation but several of them have been deferred by the Defence Ministry as part of the review of all direct import deals. This is in conjunction with efforts to push the 'Make in India' scheme in defence. Russian deals have also been deferred including the one for 21 MiG-29 fighter jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF) along with the upgradation of 59 existing Mig-29 jets estimated to cost ₹7,418 crore and the manufacture of 12 SU-30 MKI aircraft at an estimated ₹10,730 crore by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Another long pending deal for the manufacture of 200 K-226T utility helicopters in India is also under reconsideration due to the fact that the indigenous Light Utility Helicopter is now ready, as well as cost concerns. A formal decision on cancellation has not been taken yet, officials stated.

In addition, a deal for six Ka-31 early warning helicopters and a bigger deal for Igla-S very short range air defence systems have also been deferred though the Army inducted a small number of Igla-S systems brought under emergency procurement.

What is the status of payments?
With Russia being shut out of the global SWIFT system for money transfers, India and Russia have agreed to conduct payments through the Rupee-Rouble arrangement. With several big ticket deals including the S-400 under implementation, there are large volume of payments to be made.

The Central banks of the two countries had extensively discussed this issue, and officials recently said that small payments have been resumed and work is on to resolve larger payments. For the two countries, payments by the Rupee-Rouble arrangement is not new.

For instance, for the S-400 air defence systems signed in October 2018, with the looming threat of U.S. sanctions under CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act), the two sides had worked out payments through the Rupee-Rouble exchange. In fact, the delivery schedule got slightly delayed as the payment was tied up. However, at that time Russia was within the SWIFT system.

While India continues to remain Russia's largest arms buyer with a major chunk of legacy hardware from Russia and the Soviet Union, the volume of imports has reduced in the last decade.

Secure lines: An Indian Air Force MiG-29 jet takes off during a routine flying sortie at the IAF Air Base at Jamnagar on September 23, 2014. •AFP

EXPLAINER

The functioning of the National Investigation Agency

When and why was the NIA constituted? Can the agency move beyond domestic borders?

DEVESH K. PANDEY

THE GIST

- The NIA was constituted in the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack in November 2008. The agency came into existence on December 31, 2008, and started its functioning in 2009.
- The NIA is a central agency which investigates all offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign states, and the offences under the statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties.
- The law under which the agency operates extends to the whole of India and also applies to Indian citizens outside the country.

The story so far: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the probe into the June 28 killing of tailor Kanhaiyya Lal (48) in Rajasthan's Udaipur over a social media post supporting suspended Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Nupur Sharma. Now, the Union Home Ministry has handed over to the agency the investigation of a similarly executed murder of pharmacist Umesh Kolhe (54) at Amravati in Maharashtra on June 21.

Instant justice: An accused in the Kanhaiyya Lal case at an NIA court on July 2. •PTI

What is the NIA?
It is a central agency mandated to investigate all the offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign states, and the offences under the statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organisations. These include terror acts and their possible links with crimes like smuggling of arms, drugs and fake Indian currency and infiltration from across the borders. The agency has the power to search, seize, arrest and prosecute those involved in such offences.

Headquartered in Delhi, the NIA has its branches in Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, Raipur, Jammu, Chandigarh, Ranchi, Chennai, Imphal, Bengaluru and Patna.

When did the NIA come into being?
In the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack in November 2008, which shocked the entire world, the then United Progressive Alliance government decided to establish the NIA. In December 2008, former Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram introduced the National Investigation Agency Bill.

The Home Minister had then said the agency would deal with only eight laws mentioned in the schedule and that a balance had been struck between the right of the State and duties of the Central government to investigate the more important cases. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

The agency came into existence on December 31, 2008, and started its functioning in 2009.

Till date, the NIA has registered 447 cases.

What are the scheduled offences?
The list includes the Explosive Substances Act, Atomic Energy Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Anti-Hijacking Act, Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Act, Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Act, Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act and relevant offences under the Indian Penal Code, Arms Act and the Information Technology Act.

In September 2020, the Centre empowered the NIA to also probe offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act that are connected to terror cases.

How wide is NIA's jurisdiction?
The law under which the agency operates extends to the whole of India and also applies to Indian citizens outside the country; persons in the service of the government wherever they are posted; persons on ships and aircraft registered in India wherever they may be; persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against the Indian citizen or affecting the interest of India.

How does the NIA take up a probe?
As provided under Section 6 of the Act, State governments can refer the cases pertaining to the scheduled offences registered at any police station to the Central government (Union Home Ministry) for NIA investigation. After assessing the details made available, the Centre can then direct the agency to take over the case. State governments are required to extend all assistance to the NIA. Even when the Central government is of the opinion that a scheduled offence has been committed which is required to be investigated under the Act, it may, suo motu, direct the agency to take up/over the probe.

Where the Central government finds that a scheduled offence has been committed at any place outside India to which this Act extends, it can also direct the NIA to register the case and take up investigation. While investigating any scheduled offence, the agency can also investigate any other offence which the accused is alleged to have committed if the offence is connected to the scheduled offence.

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Pvt. varsities introduce new courses and subjects

Focus of courses is on professional advantages

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

Students seeking admissions to undergraduate degree courses this year have a plethora of options to choose from, as private colleges across the city have started offering many integrated courses as well as unique subjects which have more applicability in the current job arena.

From Cloud Engineering to Forensic Sciences, Decision Making to Sports Science, colleges report an increase in the number of enquiries they are getting about a diverse curriculum.

Some colleges have recognised an "interesting trend" of more students willing to study Physiotherapy and Forensic Sciences. "As we continue to grow as a vigilant country, there are more jobs being created in field of security - both in private and government sectors - which can be availed by students who study Forensic Sciences. As their training is versatile, they are also being hired in other Science streams," said Christo V. Joseph, Director, Garden City University.

Colleges report an increase in the number of enquiries they are getting about a diverse curriculum. • FILE PHOTO

Speaking about the Physiotherapy (PT) courses, he added that people are now slowly beginning to understand that PT does not mean just rehabilitation, but more about fitness. Even at REVA University, Sports Science has been newly introduced into the PT curriculum.

Officials from both universities noted that those who graduate with a PT degree have a higher chance of being hired by a sports team/company, hospitals and even high-tech gyms, as fitness consultants.

"When patients were admitted to ICUs due to COVID-19, PT was essential for them to recover. This is why hospitals also started hiring more PT graduates," Mr. Christo added.

For those who wish to gain professional training along with their academics, universities also have integrated programmes. While students spend the first half of their day studying their curriculum, they spend the second half on certification or professional training programmes. Especially at Commerce colleges, the demand for such programmes is greater.

"To make students more skill oriented, we offer certification programmes by tying up with national or international organisations. For instance, for Commerce students we offer Chartered Accountancy (CA) training and for those who choose Political Science, we offer Indian Administrative Service (IAS) coaching programmes," said Augustine George, Principal, Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous.

Joseph of Christ University said they had added a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Decision Making this year in collaboration with an international data analytics company in which Computer Science will be blended with Management.

"Students come to college for three days and go to the company the other three days. At the end of the course, they will all receive placement letters from the company," he explained.

With the implementation of the National Education Policy, universities have included several subjects like NCC as credit papers now, which was not the case before.

"At our university, we have seen a lot of demand for subjects like Industrial Relations, Food Science and Technology, Public Policy and International Relations. We have also introduced a paper on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Disaster Management and Gender and Sexuality," said Kiran Jeevan, Public Relations and Placement Officer, St Joseph's College (Autonomous).

At Engineering colleges, along with the usual Computer Science, Mechanical and Electrical courses, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics have been in demand for the last three years at least.

Another subject, which is being discovered by students, is Cloud Engineering. "Every company wants some kind of a backup for their data.

While some store it with external agencies or depositories, most (especially financial companies) prefer having their own clouds so that it is more secure and nobody can hack it. Cloud engineers will be hired by such companies easily", said Ramesh N, Registrar, REVA University.

However, while new subjects are being introduced into the curriculum, many colleges and universities believe that studying traditional subjects at the undergraduate level is vital.

Elderly woman robbed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Two men on a bike stole a gold chain from an elderly woman, while she was standing outside her house in Hampi Nagar in Vijayanagar on Saturday.

The incident occurred on 8th Main Hampi Nagar Road. Eeramma, 85, was standing outside her house, when the accused approached her on the pretext on inquiring about an address. The pillion rider snatched her gold chain and the duo sped away.

Are huge weddings a thing of the past?

'It may take a few years for things to stabilise'

According to wedding hall owners, the number of bookings has reduced by at least 40% in recent months. • FILE PHOTO

TANIA ANNY
ARCHITA LAKHOTIA
BENGALURU

Although the cap on the number of people allowed at weddings and other functions was relaxed several months ago, industry insiders say that it will take them at least a few years to get back to the pre-pandemic levels.

According to wedding hall owners, the number of bookings has reduced by at least 40% in recent months. With COVID-19 cases and positivity rate on the rise in the city, the situation is only expected to turn more grim.

"The wedding scenario has changed a lot in the city in the post-pandemic era. People are now looking for smaller budget weddings and usually book convention halls, with a maximum guest list of 50-100 persons. Before the pandemic, people spent huge amounts of money on weddings, but now that is not the case. Before COVID-19, we usually received 5-6 bookings during the season, which has now drastically fallen to only 2-3 in a month," said Rathna H.P, owner of Shri Venkatadri convention hall, located in Kanakapura and an executive committee member of Karnataka Marriage Hall Welfare Association.

Many wedding halls and convention centres have also slashed their rent hoping to get more bookings, but it has not worked in their favour.

"After the COVID-19 situation relaxed, the weddings have started happening again, but people are reluctant to have large gatherings. We have reduced the rent of the convention halls by 10-20%, to attract more clients," explained Ramesh N. Reddy, president of Karnataka Marriage Hall Welfare Association.

The hit is not limited to traditional weddings choultries, but also to open-air wedding venues, which has become a trend in the last decade. The owners of such venues say that with not many people preferring to travel to other destinations for weddings, customers think twice before spending on "aesthetically appealing" venues.

Lakshmi Kanth, spokesperson from Temple Tree Farm, one of the venues for open weddings in Sahakarnagar, said, "Most of our clients were usually Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) who came for outstation weddings. But ever since the pandemic, the number of these clients has fallen drastically. All the bookings that were made during the two years of the pandemic were cancelled with all the amount refunded to the clients. Most of the weddings organised now are very low budget and not grand, and the guest list has fallen from almost 1,000 to 300 people".

People who are getting married think that money spent on lavish weddings can be used for other purposes, especially travel. However, while restricting the guest list, they do not want to compromise on décor and food which has led to an improvement in related businesses.

"I do not mind if we have only 50 guests at my wedding. But I have already selected the kind of flowers I want for decorations, the menu for different occasions, and the return gifts for the guests. I am not going to compromise on these as it will only amount to ₹3 to 4 lakh instead of spending the same money just on a venue," said Nisha S.K., who is getting married in January 2023.

Floral boutiques and design studios agree that the demand for their services has increased in recent months but add that it will take them a long time to recover losses they have incurred in the last two years.

"The business has no doubt improved, but the people coming to weddings have reduced. Wedding organisers now spend more of the budget on gold, clothes, and décor. An average flower décor budget has increased from ₹1 lakh to almost ₹1.5 lakh," said Syed Atif, partner at Melting Flowers, a design studio for floral arrangements.

"Families organising weddings have done a lot of research during the lockdown period and have gotten to know about sweets and dishes from other cuisines as well as the native cuisine. They do not mind spending a few extra rupees to get an exquisite or rare dish," said Narendra, a wedding caterer in north Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.:SEE/Tr.(W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-1/F-114/22-23/Cys-24 Date: 02.07.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

E-Tenders are invited in the prescribed form from **Reputed Manpower Agency for the following works n Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere**

Bid Enquiry No.:KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-1/22-23/969 CALL-2 Dated 30.06.2022 for Short Term Tender for Providing Manpower Services on contract basis to TLM sub-division Davanagere coming under Transmission Circle, KPTCL Davanagere.

Tenders will be received through E-Procurement mode only. For further details, prospective Bidders are advised to log on to website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **04.07.2022** .

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.)
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL,
Hadadi Road, Davanagere.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE(TR)/BZ/SEE(O)/AEE-4/6263 Date: 01.07.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bid against Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TR/BZ/66KV CTs-CEP-89/2022-23, for Design, Manufacturing, Testing and Supply of 66KV Class Current Transformers (0.2 Accuracy Class), 31.5 KA rating of ratios **(1) 1000-800-600/1-1-1A (2) 1200-800/1-1-1A (3) 1600-1000/1-1-1A (4) 800-400/1-1-1A (5) 400-200/1-1-1A (6) 200-100/1-1-1A (with Marshalling boxes and without Mounting Structures)** required for Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Bengaluru.

The Bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E- tendering process can be got by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.07.2022**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec), Transmission Zone,
KPTCL, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru – 560009.
Phone: 080-22282601

भारतसरकार/GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
प्रवर्तननिदेशालय, विशाखापट्टनम-उपक्षेत्रीयकार्यालय
DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT, VISAKHAPATNAM SUB-ZONAL OFFICE
ई.वी. 14-33-4(1)/, व्हील एम. आई. डी. 11+, माधवधारावुडावे-आरए, विशाखापट्टनम - 530018
D.NO.39-33-40/2, MADHAVADHARA VUDA LAYOUT, VISAKHAPATNAM-530018
फोन/ PHONE NO. 0891-272 5031 फैक्स/ FAX N.: 0891-2728051

NOTICE

Whereas by its order dated 29.07.2021 in Original Complaint No. 1232/2019, theAdjudicating Authority, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi has confirmed the Provisional Attachment Order No. 01/2019 dated 27.11.2019 in ECIR No. ECIR/HYZO/07/2016 attaching the immovable properties mentioned in the schedule below. The said properties shall stay in the possession of the Directorate of Enforcement, Visakhapatnam Sub-Zonal Office in terms of Section 8 (4) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

1. **Properties registered in the name of Sri Bandela Sandeep, s/o B. Prabhudas**

Sl. No.	Description of property	Sale Deed No. & SRO	Extent of Land
1	(i) 6.79acre dry land in Sy. Nos. 227, (ii) 1.20 acre dry land in Sy. No. 228, both situated at Yanamadala Village, Chejerla Mandal, Nellore District and (iii) 3.00 acre dry land in Sy. No. 1034 of Chejerla Majara, Madapalli village, Chejerla Mandal, Nellore District., A.P.	21/2007 Podalkur	8.99 acre dry land
2	3.68 acre dry land in Sy. No. 1246 of Chejerla Majara, Madapalli village, Chejerla Mandal, Nellore District., A.P.	80/2007 Podalkur	3.68 acre dry land
3	(i) 1.19 acre dry land in Sy. No. 2, (ii) 0.75 acre dry land in Sy. No. 3 and (iii) 0.82 acre dry land in Sy. No. 8 of Chejerla Majara, Madapalli village, Chejerla Mandal, Nellore District., A.P.	774/2007 Podalkur	2.76 acre dry land
4	1.65 acre wet land in Sy. No. 592, 591/A & 596/B of Varigonda village, Varigonda Panchayat, T.P.Gudur Mandal, Nellore District., A.P.	977/2008 Mathukur	1.65 acre Wet land
5	(i) 1.65 acre dry land in Sy. Nos. 216, (ii) 1.70 acre dry land in Sy. No. 217 and (iii) 3.10 acre dry land in Sy. No. 218 of Yanamadala Majara,Yerrapalle village, Chejerla Mandal, Nellore District., A.P.	2052/2008 Podalkur	6.45 acre dry land
6	Flat No.B, Ground Floor (East side), Sri Sai Nilayam-2, Door No. 16-3/1087, Nellore Municipal Corporation Bit-2, Haranadhapuram, Sy. No. 1280/A, 1281, 1279 & 1280, measuring 1190 sft. (together with common areas) & 140 sft. car parking area (No.3, Ground Floor) with undivided and unspecified land share of 72 Sq. Yds.	10883/2009 Nellore	1190 sft. Flat
7	Flat No.405, Fourth Floor, R. M. Sneha Residency,in Sy. No. 28/7, in Basapura village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, with super-built area measuring 1154 sft.& 140 sft. including one car parking area with undivided and unspecified land share of 457 sft.	3348/2010-11 Begur	1154 sft flat
8	House property bearing No. 7-2, BBMP Katha No. 689/575/230/7-2, Old CMC No. 674 (Old House List No. 707) in Sy No. 114 & 115, situated at Medahalli village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk now under BBMP (previously Ward-13 of Krishnarajapuram City Municipal Council) measuring east-west- 30 ft and north-south-50 ft. (total land 1500 sft.) with 3000 sft structure consisting ground, 1st & 2nd floors.	4547/2010-11 Bidarahalli	3-storey bldg. on 30'x50' plot
9	800 sq. yd. land in Sy. No. 48/2 of Vavilettipadu village, Nellore Rural Mandal, Nellore District, A.P. (jointly with Sagilala Bala Subrahmanyam)	3448/2011 Stonehouse pet	800 sft plot
10	1125 sft. house on 158.88 sq. yd. land, in Sy. No. 430/1& 430/2, Door No. 6/1386, P.C.I. Colony, Ramachandrapuram Area, Nawabpeta, Nellore Municipal Corporation Bit-2, Nellore District, A.P. (purchased jointly with Panabaka Mastan Rao)	985/2013 Stonehouse pet	22'x60' house
11	I 20 car- model: Asta CRDI (Coral White) bearing Regn. No. AP26AQ 3399	NELLORE RTA	Car

2. **Properties registered in the name of Smt. GantaSuseela, w/o B. Prabhudas**

12	RCC roofed building on 360 sq. yd. land, Door No. 2001, Ward No. 26-1, 1st Cross Road, Chandramoulinagar, Vedayapalem, Nellore town, A.P.	13595/2005 Nellore	House Property

3. **Properties registered in the name of Smt. Vutukuru Priyanka, w/o VutukuruNagarjuna**

13	1296 sft. RCC roofed building on 266.66 sq. yd land, Plot No. 66, Sy. No. 2055, Door No. 1283, Ward No. 25-2, N.G.O.Colony, Nellore Municipal Corporation Bit-1, Nellore, A.P.	1851/2014 Nellore	House Property

It is also informed that nobody shall claim any right over the property mentioned in the schedule and the trespassers will be prosecuted.

BY ORDER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE
VISAKHAPATNAM

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CIB 14PF ICSR BWT dtv DT 24.06.2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites Tender for the following work:

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Provision of Coach Guidance Board with Integrated Passenger Information system at 6 Stations. Total Platform-14 Nos. (SBC-PF 2, 3, 4, 9 & 10, BWT-PF-3, MYA-PF2&3, TK-PF2&3, KPN-PF1&2, HUP-PF2&3) over Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 29002405.83

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15.00 Hrs. on 15-07-2022**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecomm. Engineer
Bengaluru
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

Rail Wheel Plant,Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841231
E-Tender Notice No.- RWP/Mech/GreenCO/2017
Date : 28.06.2022
Dy. CME/PLG, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for & on behalf of President of India, invites online **"E-open tender"** through Indian Railways E-Procurement portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in** for following work.
1. Name of the work with its location and completion period : Re-certification of GreenCo Rating system of RWP Bela for three years. **2. Approx. cost of the work :** Rs 6,37,200/-, **3. Earnest money to be deposited :** Rs. 12,800/-, **4. Tender closing and opening date and time :** 27.07.2022 upto 15:00 (Hrs). **5. Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in**. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (www.ireps.gov.in) for updates including Addendum/Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice / information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Planning/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt/2022-23/34

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner **K. Prakash Son of Late A.M. Krishna Reddy.** All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned **within 07 days from the date of publication hereof,** failing which our clients shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of bearing **Site No. 595,** A Block, in the layout formed by The Aircraft Employees Co-operative Society Ltd, measuring East to West 60 Feet, North to South 40 feet, totally 2400 Sq ft, carved out of Survey Number 43, situated at **Kudlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District** and bounded on : **East by : Site No.578, West by: Road, North by: Site No.596 and South by: Site No.594.**

M/s. Jury Legal Solutions,
Advocates,
No. 8, 14th Cross, 14th Main, 4th Sector,
HSR Layut, Bangalore-560102.
Mobile: 9844897355 / 9902195500
Bangalore Date : 02-07-2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Smt. PANKU DEVI,** Aged about 35 years, W/o. Mr. Jamtaram, Residing at # 14/5, 1st Floor, "C" Street, B.S.A. Road, Opp: Bata Shop, Bangalore - 560 005, intends to purchase the property mentioned in the schedule hereunder from the vendors **1). Smt. VIMALA .S. Aged about 73 years, 2). Sri. PRADEEP SUSAINATHAN, Aged about 42 years, 3) Sri. VINOD .S. Aged about 36 years, 4) Smt. ARCHANA .S. Aged about 38 years, Sl.No.1 is the wife and Sl.No.2 & 3 are the sons and Sl.No.4 is the daughter of Late. Sri. R. Susainathan, all that Residential at # 478, 1st Cross, 10th Main, Jeevanbheema nagar, H.A.L. 3rd Stage, New Thippa Sandra Post, Bangalore - 560 075,** and who claims to be the Absolute co-owners having inherited the same from the deceased **Late. Sri. R. Susainathan,** thereof and who had acquired the same by virtue of an **Absolute Sale Deed vide Dated : 30-12-2005.**

Any person who has got any Right, Title, Interest or claim and objections if any to the proposed sale transaction may write to the undersigned with documentary proof **within TEN DAYS from the date of Publication of this Notice,** failing which it is presumed that there are no claims, and no objections, and my client will proceed with the said sale transaction and no claims or objections will be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Residential Vacant Site Bearing Municipal Corporation No.24/1, situated at 2nd Cross, L.N.Reddy Garden, Old BBMP Ward No.94, New BBMP Ward No.24, Kariyanapalya, Kacharakanahalli, Bangalore, (formerly Being Property Bearing House List No.1046, Khata No.1041, Assessment No.125, situated at Kacharakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore) along with all the appurtenances whether underneath the soil or above the surface. Allotted PID No.94-160-24/1.

MEASURING : East to West : 50 feet; North to South : 30 feet;

BOUNDED ON THE

EAST by : Mr. Paul's Property; WEST by : 20 feet wide Road; NORTH by : Cristine Property; SOUTH by : Private Property;

ABDUL LATEEF KHAN,
ADVOCATE, M.A.,LL.B.,
No. 16, 12th Cross, B.S.A. Road, 1st Stage,
Pillanna Garden, B'lore-084. Mobile : 9845110633
Place : Bangalore Dated : 03-07-2022

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJAK Suleman, D O B 18-02-1956 R/o #25, Palani Mudaliyar Street, Hasuru, Bengaluru-560008 have changed my name from Rajak Suleman to Razak vide affidavit dt: 01-07-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, MUZAHID Khan, S/o Ibrahim Khan R/o No.48, Gundappa Road, 2nd Cross, Neelasandra, Bangalore-560047, have changed my name from Muzahid Khan to Mujahid Khan vide affidavit dated 01-07-2022 before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

REAL ESTATE

5000 SQFT land kodichikanahalli Bangalore @3.5 cr Ph: 9986764858

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

I AM SHIVAKUMAR G, S/o. Ganganna, # 588, 15th Cross, Shanthi Nagar, Opp Basaveshwara Samudaya Bhavan, Darga Joghalli, Kasaba hobli, Doddabalapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural. I have lost my original GPA property document at Near R L Jalappa College, Kodigahalli Panchayat, Kasaba Hobli, Doddabalapur, I have raised an lost complaint on dated 29/06/2022, bearing FIR No. PO0263220500547, and it registered GPA (General Power of Attorney) document No. 649/2006-07, stands in the name of SADASHIVAIAH, registered at Doddaballapur Sub Registrar, dated 15/03/2007, if anyone found the document Please contact Mobile No. 9743537753.

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Vibrant hues: Street art on the transgender community at Lodhi Colony in New Delhi. •FILE PHOTO

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Beyond male and female, the right to humanity

Importantly, the Supreme Court accepted the broad definition of transgender as including persons who did not identify with the sex assigned to them at birth

THE GIST

- The NLSA judgment is a hugely significant and potentially transformative decision. It affirms that there is no place in the Constitution for a hierarchy of super-humans, lesser humans and non-humans.
- The Court held that non-recognition of gender identity violates the rights to equality and life, and that transgendered persons should not be compelled to declare themselves as either male or female. The lack of recognition of their gender identity curtails their access to education and results in discrimination in the exercise of their right to vote and secure employment.
- An outstanding feature of the decision is that the judges accepted the broad definition of transgender as including persons whose gender identity, gender expression or behaviour did not conform to their biological sex, and more importantly, those who did not identify with the sex assigned to them at birth.

RATNA KAPUR

In 2019, Adam Harry shot to fame as the country's first transgender trainee pilot. However, two years later, he is a delivery man for Zomato. He has been barred from flying on the grounds that he is unfit as he is on hormone therapy. Through this article by Ratna Kapur dated April 19, 2014, we re-visit the landmark National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) v. Union of India judgment which recognised third gender persons as entitled to fundamental rights under the Constitution.

The Supreme Court judgment recognising the rights of transgendered persons is a landmark ruling and restores faith in the Court's ability to recognise gross injustice. The Bench comprising Justices K.S. Radhakrishnan and A.K. Sikri has also restored the image of the Court as capable of bold moves when it comes to addressing the denial of the right to be human simply on the basis of one's sexual status and conduct. The Court's progressive image was in tatters after the *Suresh Kumar Kaushal v. NAZ Foundation* ruling in December 2013 that re-criminalised gays and lesbians, and overruled the 2009 Delhi High Court's decision that Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code was not applicable to consensual sexual relations between adults.

Dynamic decision

The ruling in *National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) v. Union Of India* has far-reaching implications. It is a courageous decision that embeds the rights of transgendered persons primarily within the right to equality in the Indian Constitution. In this sense it is a more dynamic decision than the Delhi High Court ruling regarding Section 377, which was largely based on the right to privacy. The Court held that non-recognition of gender identity violates the rights to equality and life, and that transgendered persons should not be compelled to declare themselves as either male or female. The lack of recognition of their gender identity curtails their access to education, health care and public places, and results in discrimination in the exercise of their right to vote and secure employment, driving licenses and other documentation where eligibility is contingent on declaring oneself as either male or female.

While the decision is largely based on the protection of fundamental rights, the Court also relied on a host of UN human rights provisions as well as the 2006 Yogyakarta principles, which specifically recognise the human rights of sexual minorities, and which were adopted to counter discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. Moreover, unlike the Bench in the Kaushal case, the judges heard with approval a host of foreign judgments relating to the rights of transgendered persons, without throwing a nationalist anti-western hissy fit.

The NLSA decision recognised the social construction of not only gender but also of sex as something that is performed rather than biologically determined

An outstanding feature of the decision is that the judges accepted the broad definition of transgender as including persons whose gender identity, gender expression or behaviour did not conform to their biological sex, and more importantly, those who did not identify with the sex assigned to them at birth. They accepted a vast array of identities and experiences that constitute the category of transgendered persons, culturally and socially, and also accepted the fact that gender identity was not necessarily biologically determined. They referred to each person's experience of gender, which may involve a freely chosen modification of bodily appearance or functions by medical or other means. Gender identity is about self-identification. Justice Sikri went so far as to state that "even gay, lesbian, bisexual are included in the description 'transgender'" and that it was an umbrella term. The idea of male and female are not regarded as natural, but as normative categories by the Court. The NLSA decision thus recognised the social construction of not only gender but also of sex as something that is performed rather than biologically determined. This argument places this decision at the cutting edge of progressive, feminist and queer thinking on issues of gender and sexuality.

The Court further held that sex discrimination in Indian constitutional law includes discrimination on the grounds of gender identity, and rejected the view that it was limited to biological sex. It held that a binary understanding of gender denied hijras and transgendered persons equal protection of law and constituted the basis for widespread discrimination. The Court has clearly articulated that transgendered persons should no longer be treated with cruelty, pity or charity. There needs to be a paradigm shift towards a rights-based approach where they are accepted as fully human. As Justice Sikri stated: "It is only with this recognition that many rights attached to sexual recognition as 'third gender' would be available to this community more meaningfully viz. the right to vote, the right to own property, the right to marry, the right to claim a formal identity through a passport and a ration card, a drivers license, the right to education, employment, health and so on."

The Court also addressed the arguments regarding Section 377 but expressed no view on the Kaushal case, currently the subject matter of a curative petition. The Justices did however recognise the misuse of Section 377 to harass transgendered persons. The fact that a transgendered person may be having sex with a man also implies that homosexuals or men having sex with men or transgendered persons would also be subject to such harassment, undermining a key finding in the Kaushal decision that there was no sufficient evidence on record of police harassment.

Gaps in Kaushal case

The NLSA judgment is a hugely significant and potentially transformative decision. It affirms that there is no place in the Constitution for a hierarchy of super-humans, lesser humans and non-humans. This decision is informed, coherent, and demonstrates a familiarity with the literature as well as acute attentiveness to counsel's arguments.It now remains to be seen whether the obvious contradictions and gaps in the Kaushal case will be remedied by the Court in a direction that ensures that homosexuals are not only accorded the same rights as citizens as transgendered persons have been accorded, but also the right to humanity.

Ratna Kapur is Global Professor of Law, Jindal Global Law School

THE DAILY QUIZ

July 4 is the U.S. Independence Day. A quiz on famous man-made landmarks in the vast country

1 The Statue of Liberty holds a torch above her head with her right hand and in her left hand carries a tablet. What is inscribed on the tablet?

2 Of the four U.S. Presidents whose likeness is sculpted on Mt. Rushmore, two are George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Name the other two.

3 In the city of skyscrapers, this iconic edifice located at the intersection of 42nd Street and Lexington Avenue in Manhattan, is still the tallest brick building in the world with a steel framework. Name it.

4 It was in this building where the Declaration of Independence and its Constitution were debated and adopted into law. In which city is the Independence Hall, the Georgian-style structure completed in 1753, located?

5 The architect Henry Bacon's masterpiece is considered the most visited monument in the nation's capital for its sheer graceful elegance and 24-hour access. Name this structure located on the western edge of the National Mall.

6 Located in Memphis, Graceland is the most-visited privately owned home in the U.S. Which famous entertainer once owned this mansion?

7 Built during the Great Depression on the Colorado River between Nevada and Arizona, name America's largest dam that is a popular tourist attraction.

8 Los Angeles' most recognisable building is a distinctively rippled, stainless-steel coated structure designed by the famed architect Frank Gehry. It was completed in 1996. Name it.

In which U.S. State is this famous 'Gateway Arch' located? •AFP

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the July 1 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The country in which the most powerful earthquake ever recorded took place. **Ans: Chile**
2. The meaning of the word seismos. **Ans: Earthquake**
3. Over 75% of the world's volcanoes are situated along this path and 90% of the Earth's earthquakes take place here. **Ans: Ring of Fire, Pacific Ocean**
4. The scale which measures the intensity of an earthquake based on observational trends. **Ans: Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale**
5. The other meaning of 'Jishin' which is also the Japanese word for earthquake. **Ans: "Confidence"**
Visual: In terms of modern measurements, this was first achieved during the 1992 Nicaragua earthquake. **Ans: This event was the first "tsunami earthquake" to be recorded using modern broadband instruments**

Early Birds: Akshay Kumar Khanna| Parveen Rewri| Vineetha O.K.| Srinidhi Kavirayani

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Shoes don't bite, they pinch

Your language skills are going to make your friends turn green

S. UPENDRAN

"Come on in! What are you doing here so early in the morning? Would you like some coffee?"

"No, thanks! Ravi left for the States this morning. My friends and I went to see him off."

"I'm sure that made him very happy. Nice pair of sandals, by the way! When did you get them?"

"Thank you! Bought them a couple of weeks ago. They were on sale."

"They look pretty cool. I'm sure some of your friends turned green when they saw you wearing them this morning."

"Turned green? Why would they turn green? They weren't sick or anything."

"When you say that someone turned green, what you're suggesting is that the individual became extremely jealous of something. In this case, your sandals. Here's another example.

My neighbour turned green when he saw me driving my new car."

"My colleague turned green when he heard that I'd been given a raise."

"That's a good example. The expression was coined and made famous by Shakespeare."

"I see. Ravi turned green when he heard that I'd performed much better than him on the CAT exam."

"That happened nearly ten years ago. And that was perhaps the only time you did better than him. Anyway, what did your friends have to say about your new sandals?"

"I don't think anyone noticed them. Why would anyone look at my feet?"

"Some people do, you know. How are they? Are they comfortable?"

"Right now, they certainly aren't. The've been biting me all morning. Maybe, I should..."

"Biting you? You mean pinching you, don't you?"

"I always thought it was 'bite'. Shoes bite, don't they?"

"In many Indian languages, we talk about chappals, sandals and shoes 'biting' us. But in English, these different kinds of footwear 'pinch', and not 'bite'. I need to remove my shoes. They've been pinching me all morning."

"It's not surprising that they are pinching you, They look too small for you."

"That's not true. It's the size I usually buy. It's probably going to take some time for me to break them in."

"Break your shoes in? What are you talking about? How can anyone break their shoe?"

"You're not breaking the shoes, you're breaking them in. When you break your shoes in, you wear them for short periods of time till you begin to feel comfortable in them."

"I see. So you don't wear them all day, but for an hour so?"

"It could be just a few minutes to begin with. I think this pair will be great once I've broken them in."

"It took me nearly a week to break my sandals in.

How does that sound?"

"Sounds good. The expression can be used with other things as well. It took me nearly six months to break my batting gloves in."

"That's because you play cricket so infrequently. How about this example?

It takes me time to break my jeans in."

"That's a very good example. The last pair I bought took me no time at all. I broke them in, in a week's time."

"Lucky you!

I'm like every other woman: a closet full of clothes, but nothing to wear. So I wear jeans.
-Cameron Diaz

upendrankye@gmail.com

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUL. 04	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 10:06	SET 22:49
TUESDAY, JUL. 05	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 10:54	SET 23:27
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 06	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:50
RISE 11:43	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	30	21
Bengaluru	27	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of moderate rain and thundershower at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

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Opening of Whitefield line likely to benefit 3 lakh commuters

BMRCL MD says trial run will be held by September and the line will be opened for public by year-end

A view of the metro work at K.R. Puram in Bengaluru on Sunday. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Once the Baiyappanahalli-Whitefield line opens for commercial operations, Namma Metro services will receive an additional ridership of 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh, it is estimated.

Anjum Parwez, Managing Director, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), told *The Hindu* that patronage for the services will significantly rise once the Whitefield line becomes operational as it will benefit thousands of employees working in the IT corridor. "To expedite the pending works, we have shifted our human resources on this line. Works on the depot at Kadugodi is going at full swing and all critical components required will be completed as early as possible. We are targeting the opening of the line by year-end," the official said.

BMRCL also requires a number of new coaches to run trains on the line. Mr. Parvez said the trial run on the extended Purple Line will start in September and by the year-end, the line will be opened to the public.

He added that to facilitate opening of the line, the Baiyappanahalli-Whitefield line is part of ongoing Phase II project of Namma Metro. The 15-km line has 13 metro stations and a depot at Kadugodi spread over 44 acres. The metro stations on the corridor include K.R. Puram, Hoodi junction, Kadugodi, and Whitefield.

Motorists using Whitefield Road and enduring traffic snarls for years, during the construction of the metro elevated corridor, may soon heave a sigh of relief.

The construction of the works started in 2016 and has missed multiple deadlines.

The hurdles that delayed opening of the line included changes in the metro alignment near Tin Factory area, delay in acquisition of land, pandemic, and others.

After the Russia-Ukraine war, the construction works were affected by shortage of high-grade steel in the domestic market.

Mr. Parwez said that the shortage impacted the works for over a month, but now the contractors are getting the required supply.

Once the extended Purple Line becomes operational in the eastern side of the city, people can travel from Kengeri to Whitefield. In August, BMRCL had opened the extended Purple Line from Mysuru Road station to Kengeri.

The official said that after the Whitefield line, the Yellow Line from R.V. Road to Bommasandra line will be opened to the public by mid-next year.

Two more FIRs registered against landowners and residents of Thubarahalli labour camp

Many complain they are being targeted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Varthur Police registered two more FIRs against landowners and residents of the Thubarahalli labour camp in Varthur on Sunday, drawing the ire of residents and activists, who have alleged that the FIRs were an arm-twisting tactic being deployed by agencies to evict them from the land.

It may be recalled that on Thursday, hundreds of labourers, staying in Thubarahalli labour camp on Balagere Road, staged a protest against alleged forceful evictions.

The labourers alleged that the jurisdictional police, since last Monday, were forcing them to evict the place and even disconnected power and water connections.

This was after a BBMP official of Mahadevapura zone, Mamatha M.S., lodged a complaint against land owners and residents of unscientific garbage disposal. Residents and activists allege the complaint was just a ruse for the police to intervene.

On Sunday, Ms. Mamatha lodged two more complaints and two more FIRs have been registered. Along with the land owners, Ramachandra Reddy and Shankar Narayana, the FIRs also named dwellers Abdul Hasan and Abdul Khan, charging them under the same sections.

The police have vehemently denied allegations of forceful evictions. "We have only filed cases based on complaints by the BBMP and we are not evicting anyone," a senior police official said.

However, residents and activists continue to allege police were forcing land owners to evict them.

K. Mariyappa, district committee secretary, Bhoomi Vasathi Vanchitara Horata Samiti, alleged that migrant labourers were being harassed owing to political pressure and because they were Muslims.

"We are living in this area for the last two decades, cleaning city garbage and helping the people by donating even our blood during the pandemic. We are not living in the area for free. We are paying rent and even water and power charges. Despite this, we are under constant harassment," Kalam Sheikh, a resident of the area said.

The colony has those collecting and transporting garbage from homes, drivers, maids, and other professions. They have now threatened to strike work, which they say would disrupt normal life in the areas surrounding the colony. "The same BBMP that is harassing us owes us money for the last 10 months, as they haven't paid for garbage collection," one of them pointed out.

"Local politicians and realtors are harassing us whenever they want to sell land.. If the government is so concerned let them allow us to stay in government grazing land," another person demanded.

Garment workers say govt. has neglected the sector

They pour out their woes at an event in the city

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

"I have worked in the garment sector for over a decade now. Yet when COVID-19 hit the nation, I was forced to resign. Now, I have somehow managed to get my job back, but my salary is not enough to bear today's living costs. Even after so many years, I feel like I have not been valued at the factory. The owners barely care about our well being," lamented Jayamma, a garment worker in Bengaluru.

Garment workers have demanded that the State government provide better transport facilities for them. •FILE PHOTO

She was speaking at a discussion on 'State Inaction towards Garments Workers', organised by the Garment and Textile Workers' Union (GATWU) and the Alternative Law Forum on Sunday in the city.

Workers say that their sector has been neglected by the government for a long time as their problems are palmed off to the factory owners.

"Be it be minimum wage revision, payment of dearness allowance or even extensive job losses during COVID-19, neither the government nor the factory owners cared about us," Prathiba R., president, GATWU, told *The Hindu*.

Among the demands placed by the workers were those pertaining to minimum wages, action to stop workplace harassment of women, better transport facilities, making ESI more labour friendly, and the intervention of the Labour Department when union workers are dealt with violently by the factory owners.

"Injustice in the minimum wage revision has been going on for the past 40 years. Although the law states that the minimum wage should be revised every five years, due to the negligence of successive governments and employers' lobbies, the average wage revision has become once every 10 years. As a result, garment workers are getting the lowest minimum wage compared to all other scheduled industries in Karnataka," a press release from the meeting said.

A report 'Forced Resignations, Stealthy Closures', which was released during the meeting, spoke about the way garment workers were forced to resign from their jobs during the lockdown. Out of the 81% workforce in garment factories which resigned during the pandemic, 85% were forced to resign. The survey included garment factories from three clusters in Bengaluru.

"Many workers reported that when their factory announced that it was closing, they were presented with two options: resigning and getting their dues; or to not resign and delay/lose out on their dues. This fear pushed a majority to resign without protest," the report said. However, many who resigned during that time have still not received their dues. A worker who was present at the meeting shared how every time she goes to the factory to collect her dues, she is asked to return two or three months later only to hear the same response again.

The workers who were out of jobs during the time received no help from the government. Another report 'Garment Workers, COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown' which surveyed garment workers from southern parts of Karnataka, said that 60% of the respondents reported not receiving any help from the government during the pandemic.

"There is a lot of job insecurity which forces us to not come to the frontline and deal with our problems. The reason why we usually get out of organisations after a few years is the fear of uncertainty. The owners often put us in a situation which makes us feel uncomfortable, but we cannot question them or the other authorities at the organisation," said Ms. Prathibha

Among the demands placed by the workers to the government were those pertaining to minimum wages, action to stop workplace harassment of women, provision of better transport facilities, making ESI more labour friendly and the intervention of the Labour Department when union workers are dealt with violence by the factory owners.

Jayanagar MLA Sowmya Reddy who was responding to the workers' demands demanded that the minimum wage should be increased immediately and that the government should take action to prevent all forms of harassment against women including sexual harassment at the workplace.

BLT takes a trip down memory lane

Troupe stages its first-ever production from six decades ago

ROHAN
BENGALURU

What is the best way to celebrate 60 years of a theatre troupe? One way is to stage its first-ever production from six decades ago. That is what the Bangalore Little Theatre (BLT) did, to mark the landmark.

A farcical comedy *The Middle Class Gentleman*, by French playwright Moliere, enthralled audiences over the last few weeks, with the season finale on Sunday.

It also marked the 400th birth anniversary of the playwright, making it a fitting tribute to both theatre and the playwright.

In fact, the first production of the BLT was in 1960 and the troupe wanted to celebrate the landmark in 2020, but the pandemic came in the way.

"The idea was that we do a fun play. Then we hit on the idea of doing our first production? So here we are," said Shubham Srivatsav, director.

Some of the actors in *The Middle Class Gentleman*.

The BLT was started in 1960 by English couple Scott and Margaret Todd, along with others. The Todds were part of the Little Theatre Movement in the United Kingdom.

The movement started in the United States of America to experiment and loosen up the then orthodox dramatic forms and methods of composition from the complexities of large theatres.

The Todds' commitment to a genuine theatre experience led to the formation of the BLT, which has since then been a leading troupe in the city.

Originally written in French, *The Middle Class Gentleman* tells the story of a man who has newly come into money in French society.

As he tries to ape the rich and gain acceptance, he makes a fool of himself. When his daughter falls for a common man, as against her father's wishes of marrying an aristocrat, the young lovers cook up a story to con the father and fool him again.

"So, it's like a play within a play. Its commentary is relevant even now," Mr. Shrivatsav said.

The BLT auditioned for the play and conducted rehearsals for over three months.

"The play has nearly 30 people, a mix of those with considerable theatre experience and some newcomers," Mr. Shrivastv said.

"For over 50 years people have been saying that theatre is a dying art, but we continue to get a steady stream of audiences and enthusiasts who want to be part of productions," he added.

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www.thehindu.com

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (July 4, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- Know your English bit.ly/kyebks

Explainer
- On the National Investigation Agency bit.ly/niafunction

Explainer
- Strains on India-Russia defence cooperation bit.ly/russiadefence

- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

READER'S MAIL

Traffic congestion
Sir, – The road connecting Mysuru road and Kengeri Satellite Town and Dubasipalya has a level-crossing over the railway track. This road that begins from a few yards after R.V. College metro station is very narrow and it has private bus parking yards on both sides.
+Nowadays, the traffic density on this road has increased a lot, the frequency of trains has also increased, and also the closing of the gates at the crossing.
Sometimes, the gate remains closed for a longer duration to give clearance to three trains at a stretch, with an interval time of around five minutes between each train.
For about 15 to 20 minutes, the gate closure leads to a pile-up of vehicles up to Mysuru road from the crossing.
So, the authorities are requested to solve the problem for the motorists on this road by constructing an underpass and widening the road.
N. SADHASIVA REDDY,
Bengaluru

Readers can email to letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU
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PSI exam scam: CID arrests candidate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

CID officials, probing the PSI recruitment scam, arrested Jagruth, the prime accused in the case filed with the High Grounds police on April 30 this year.

Jagruth, who was among the 22 accused, topped the selection list and was later charged by the CID after his OMR sheets were found to be tampered.

While the CID officials arrested nine candidates on April 29 and handed them over to the High Grounds Police, Jagruth and others have been absconding since then.

The police said that he was hiding in Kerala and other parts of the State and was finally tracked down in Channapattna, where the CID team chased and caught him on Saturday.

The accused has been produced before the magistrate and taken into custody for further investigation.

'Make informed career choice'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
DAVANGERE

Minister for Urban Development and Davangere district in-charge Byrathi Basavaraj called upon the students to choose a career of their choice and make their parents proud by excelling in their chosen field.

Urban Development Minister Byrathi Basavaraj releasing the career handbook in Davangere on Sunday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He was speaking after inaugurating *The Hindu* Education Plus Career Counselling Session and releasing the career handbook brought out by *The Hindu* Education Plus at Bapuji B-School in Davangere on Sunday.

The Minister called on the students to be passionate about the path they choose and study hard, acquire skills to achieve success in their chosen field.

He said it was important to identify one's interest and capabilities and make an informed choice.

Referring to the Vidyanidhi scheme announced by Chief Minister and other government schemes aimed at helping the student community, the Minister said that the government was committed to their welfare and had introduced various skill development programmes.

Superintendent of Police of Davangere C.B. Ryshyanth said that everything was a good field today and it all depended on how passionate one was about his or her career. He thanked *The Hindu* for the initiative and said he and many civil services toppers owed a lot to the newspaper for their success.

EV expos to be held at divisional levels

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

After the first successful Electric Vehicle (EV) expo which was organised in Bengaluru, the Energy Department now plans to hold more expos across the State at divisional levels.

As the nodal agency for EVs, Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) will be organising these expos in tier-2 cities. The expo at Bengaluru which concluded on Sunday was attended by a total of 30,000 people, according to Bescom.

V. Sunil Kumar, Minister of Energy said that the State-level expos will help in creating more awareness about EVs. "EV expos will take place in Mysuru, Managaluru, Hubballi, Belagavi, and Kalaburagi," said P. Rajendra Cholan, Managing Director, Bescom. Further, Bescom announced that EV charging stations will be established in every stretch between 500-1,000 metres by 2025 as more than 5 lakh EVs are expected to take the road by then.

"The permission to set up charging stations will be provided within seven days if the application is submitted under Bescom's single-window scheme," said a press release from Bescom.

It also said that private persons and companies who are interested in establishing charging stations will be permitted to set up 25 kilowatt capacity stations.

Bescom is also in conversation with various tesidents welfare associations to set up charging stations in residential complexes and layouts, the officials said.

Charred body of woman found in Kengeri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Kengeri Police recovered the charred body of an unidentified woman in an isolated place in Ramasandra in Kengeri police station limits on Sunday.

The woman is said to be aged between 25 and 30 and the police suspect that she was sexually assaulted before being killed. The police are awaiting the post-mortem report.

The police also recovered a few empty glasses and a pair of slippers from the scene of crime. Police stations from in and around the city were alerted to check for any missing complaint of a woman to find out her identity.

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VINEY KIRPAL

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The best teachers use effective drama techniques to recreate the magic of a concept and leave telling to the books

DRAMA in the classroom

Generations of students remember two professors from Pune for their teaching. Both are gone, but students have commemorated them and their teaching styles.

Hoshang Moogat used to teach Math at Nowrosjee Wadia College in 1964. Though young, he commanded attention and taught his students the subject he was a master of, with passion and enthusiasm. He sang formulae while writing them on the board to enable easy recall. The students sang in a chorus. His explanations were simple. He introduced permutations and combinations using the example of pairs of socks, kerchiefs, and shirts arranged in a drawer.

The other professor was the Head of the English Department at what was then called Poona University. Prof. S. Nagarajan had a formidable reputation as a researcher and teacher. He had a Ph.D. from Harvard. His most memorable classes were his reading of Shakespeare's *King Lear*. He read the heartbreaking scene of Cordelia's death, pouring his heart and soul into it as if it was his story. He would modulate his voice like a Shakespearean actor, whispering and whimpering, as if he were the grief-stricken 88-year-old mad king, carrying the body of his beloved daughter, tottering over the heath, raging wildly against human nature.

Professor Moogat and Professor Nagarajan taught, motivated, engaged and inspired their students to study their subjects. One was a comic genius and the other, a giant among scholars.

Making a difference

Both teachers came to mind during my first workshop on effective teaching for Computer Science professors from across the country. The coordinator, a senior professor at IIT-Bombay, received a complaint that I expected teachers to become actors.

I invited him to join the next session, where I asked, "Who said you are not actors as teachers? We are all actors who have to make our students experience a subject, not just teach it. Do you think your students like your class when you wear deadpan faces, playing the part of teachers, meaning someone superior?"

They got my point when I showed them the difference between teaching through class-friendly body language, and without body movement.

"Positive body language in a classroom setting has the ability to motivate, inspire and engage," says Brittany Williamson in her article, *The importance of body language in teaching*'. "It can not only give you the confidence you need to teach but can also reassure your students that you actually know what you're talking about."

When a teacher uses body language effectively, students feel safe and eager to take part in the lessons. Teachers need to shed the fear that students will not respect them if they are dramatic in the classroom. Actually, they become more effective. Why? Because, they recreate the magic of the concept and leave the telling to the books.

Effective steps

Simple changes in using body language can help teach a subject in a lively manner. Here are a few suggestions:

Make eye contact: Look at the students one by one, with a small smile, and converse with them about the subject and watch them understand it.

Stand upright: Don't slump or stand against the wall or table. A good posture makes you look confident and alert.

Make gestures: Gesture with your hands periodically, as we do in real-life situations, for, they can lend extra meaning to a word when you use it.

Voice modulation: Use your voice to emphasise certain expressions so that the meaning is communicated. It is surprising how students associate a concept with a well-modulated voice.

Enunciate: Do not mumble, speak too fast or slow. Students might miss some words if you speak fast, or fall asleep if you speak too slowly.

Can dramatic teachers complete their syllabus? Yes, ours did. Any teacher can, if they teach the most important concepts and inspire the students to read the rest on their own.

Students love the challenge and respect you for having trusted them.

Positive body language in a classroom setting has the ability to motivate, inspire and engage, says Brittany Williamson

The writer is a former professor of English, IIT-Bombay.
ceogiit@gmail.com

On the career runway

Uncertain about your options? Low on self-confidence? This Q&A column may help

OFF THE EDGE

NANDINI RAMAN

I'm from Jammu and have done my Bachelor's in sciences. I am interested in anthropological research and want to know about the scope in India. - Shreya

Dear Shreya,

Anthropologists can start their careers across teaching in colleges, universities or with research in government agencies such as the Archaeological Survey of India, the Planning Commission and other agencies such as the UN, UNESCO, UNICEF to understand social issues such as education, public health, urban planning, social welfare. They can also get jobs across private community organisations and museums. Openings are available for socio-cultural anthropologists with NGOs who need help to understand the nuances of industry and society.

My dream is to pursue Design courses after Class 12. What are the best options in India for B.Des? How should I prepare? - Hemanth

Dear Hemanth,

Some of the top ranked B.Des colleges are NIFT Delhi/Mumbai/Bangalore/Hyderabad/Chennai, UID Ahmedabad, NID Ahmedabad, Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design & Technology Bangalore, IN-IFD Deccan, MIT, INSD, SID - Pune. The AIEED and CEED are all India entrance exams and every college has a specified prerequisite / criteria for selection of candidates. Identify your college wish list first, read their requirements on their portals and then start your prep. Look at the previous exam papers, identify the pattern, get familiar with the curriculum and solve as many papers as possible.

I am in my second year of B.Sc. Zoology. My dream is to find a job abroad. Is it possible to get a job after UG or should I go for a post-graduate course? If the latter, what course should I choose? - Ruth

Dear Ruth,

I am not sure on what kind of a job you can find overseas after UG. However, if you were to do a Master's programme abroad first, then there will be many openings. The course will depend on your subject, field and the eventual employment that you wish to have.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and am interested in writing Indian Forest Service Examination conducted by UPSC. But my degree is not in the mentioned eligible courses. Is there any short course that will make me eligible and also add value to my main qualification? - Pavithra

Dear Pavithra,

Who told you that you cannot apply for UPSC because you are an architect? Graduation in any discipline from a recognised university is the educational criteria. Please revisit the UPSC site and start preparing for the exam.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line 'Off the edge'.

For more information on scholarships, admissions, new courses, events and articles on career options and other news, visit www.thehindu.com/education

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FROM PAGE ONE

Sinha hits out at State govt. over school curriculum

The Janata Dal (Secular) is learnt to be supporting the ruling party candidate Droupadi Murmu though its leaders have stated publicly that they are yet to make up their mind on whom to support.

Sources said that the issue had been discussed at the core committee meeting, and the party was likely to support Ms. Murmu citing her as a good candidate.

They said that BJP president J. P. Nadda and Ms. Murmu had spoken to Mr. Gowda seeking support.

Eligible voters

The Congress has 70 legislators, including an Independent, five Rajya Sabha members, and one Lok Sabha member, from the State who are eligible to vote in the Presidential election.

The JD (S) has 32 legislators (two of whom have been suspended for cross voting in the recent Rajya Sabha election), one Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha member each.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has 122 members, including two Independents, 25 Lok Sabha members, and six Rajya Sabha members.

'Take a pledge to be impartial custodian of Constitution'

Sinha dares Murmu; meets Cong. legislators seeking support to his campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Stating that the President should be an impartial custodian of the Constitution, the combined Opposition Presidential candidate and former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha on Sunday pledged to be answerable to the Constitution even as he challenged the ruling party candidate Droupadi Murmu to take a similar vow.

"The President should not be a silent rubber stamp. I pledge to be answerable to the Constitution and restrain the Union government if it aids and abets outrageously undemocratic practices such as Operation Kamala that has been used to destabilise Opposition governments in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and several other States," he told reporters here on Sunday.

He met the Congress leaders and legislators seeking support to his campaign during the Congress Legislative Party meeting. Among those present included Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah, Leader of the Opposition in the Council B.K. Hariprasad, and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar.

The Opposition Presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha with Congress leaders Siddaramaiah, D.K. Shivakumar, and M. Mallikarjun Kharge in Bengaluru on Sunday. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

He also pledged to speak out against any attempts aimed at communal polarisation and defend freedom of press, speech and other rights, besides promising to work for the repeal of the sedition law. "I have great personal regard for the candidate of the ruling party. However, in the prevailing grim circumstances in the country, I urge her to assure the people of India on the above concern and make a similar pledge," Mr. Sinha said.

Quoting the recent statement of Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana that "the judiciary is answerable to the Constitution and the Constitution alone," the former Union Minister said: "I fully endorse this view and congratulate CJI Ramana for this forthright affirmation. I have been saying since I filed my nomination papers on June 27 that the sole purpose behind my acceptance of the combined Opposition's offer to be their candidate is to safeguard the Constitution and its lofty values, which are today under unprecedented threat."

In the past eight years, Mr. Sinha alleged that "The ruling dispensation has launched repeated assaults on democracy and secularism, which form the founding principles of our Republic. It has unleashed a poisonous communal propaganda to divide India's multi religious society."

Referring to the Supreme Court's stringent indictment of Nupur Sharma's remarks on Prophet Mohammed, he said: "Unfortunately, BJP supporters are trolling the Supreme Court for condemning her remarks and filthiest abuses are being levelled against judiciary. This is unprecedented and a sad development." He also lamented that the Union government has weaponised ED, CBI, Election Commission and even the Governor's office against Opposition parties, their leaders and governments. "This has become a common practice now.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

All set to quit?

Participation of former MLA Y.S.V. Datta of the JD(S) in a protest to oppose textbook revision by a committee headed by Rohith Chakrathirtha provided some sorts of "political entertainment" to the people who participated in a programme organised by the Kuvempu Vishwamanava Vedike of Tirthahalli.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah, in his speech, appreciated that many writers, intellectuals and activists had taken part in the programme.

Someone in the audience reminded the former Chief Minister that Mr. Datta of the JD(S) was also on the dais. Mr. Siddaramaiah immediately said, "Datta has come here because he is quitting that JD(S)." This left the audience in splits, but perhaps Mr. Datta a little uncomfortable.

Katti's 'two states'

What exactly is on the mind of Forest Minister Umesh Katti (*in picture*) when he speaks of "two Karnatakas" and of the prospect of him becoming the Chief Minister of "northern Karnataka state" in future? Few people seem to know. Even those who claim to know the leader intimately for decades cannot understand this streak in him. Mr. Katti, who at one point talked a lot on this issue, had been silent on it for a while. But over the last month, he has again spoken about it

three times. Going a step ahead, he even said that he had inside information about the Union government planning to redesign the States so that the population of each State is around 3-6 crore.

However, when confronted by journalists in Mysuru, he sought to clarify on the issue which only confused anyone further.

"I am speaking of a new state of northern Karnataka and not of division," he said, but could not explain any further what that even meant. How does he, as a Minister, get away with such flippant talk?

In a fix

One rainy morning last week, residents of Hindalga, a quiet village on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border, woke up to the honking of a cavalcade of VIP vehicles. They found that a dozen of BJP leaders were driving into the village to spend the day at the home of Bayavva Maste, a former Gram Panchayat member.

The occasion was that Som Prakash, Union Minister, had to have lunch at the home of a Dalit, to mark eight years of the NDA government and the party had chosen Ms. Bayavva's house. Ms. Bayavva and her daughter-in-law served north Karnataka food, including jowar roti and stuffed brinjal. Mr. Prakash was accompanied by Mangala Angadi, MP, Govind Karjol, district in-charge Minister, and Sanjay Patil, former MLA.

Hindalga happens to be the place where Santosh Patil, BJP worker and contractor who took his life after accusing former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa of corruption, has a home. His family lives there.

The journalists who were waiting outside Ms. Bayavva's house wanted to know if the leaders would visit the house of Mr. Patil. But the Minister left swiftly without taking questions. Mr. Patil said such visits cannot be on the tour programme of the Central Minister.

SATHISH G.T.
RISHIKESH BAHADUR DESAI

District and taluk hospitals outsource food for patients, incur big expenses

Cost of food procured has gone up by five to six times in some hospitals

SATHISH G.T.
HASSAN

The expenditure on food provided for in-patients in government hospitals at taluk and district centres has gone up, thanks to the decision to outsource ready food. Even in hospitals where the basic infrastructure facilities required for cooking are available, the officers have gone for outsource of ready food, incurring huge expenses to hospitals.

For example, the taluk hospital at Sagar in Shivamogga district, despite having a kitchen, has opted to outsource cooked food. As per the rates prevailing last year, the hospital paid ₹33 per patient a day to the service provider who cooked food utilising the infrastructure and manpower in the hospital. The diet included coffee/tea with bread, besides two meals a day.

However, under the current system, where a private person is supplying cooked food, the hospital has to pay ₹190 per day per patient. The diet chart has been altered to include banana, egg and vegetable curry. The hospitals have to bear the cost from its resources, which includes collection of fee from patients.

Earlier, the cost per patient per day was ₹33 because it did not include any charges other than what was spent on foodgrains. Now, cooked food is supplied. We have included egg, banana and vegetable curry in the diet.

PARAPPA
Administrative Medical officer of Sagar hospital

Individual hospitals will take decisions on food as per the local requirement. If certain hospitals have gone for outsourcing cooked food, despite having necessary infrastructure facilities, we will look into it.

D. RANDEEP
Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare

Dr. Parappa, Administrative Medical officer of Sagar hospital, said that tender was allotted through a transparent system. "Earlier, the cost per patient per day was ₹33 because it did not include any charges other than what was spent on foodgrains. The expense of fuel (LGP), building and support staff was not included. Then food was prepared in the hospital itself. Now, cooked food is supplied. We have included egg, banana and vegetable curry in the diet and we are getting ready food for the patients. Hence, the cost has increased and it cannot be compared with the old price," he said.

The Department of Health and Family Welfare in its circular in December 2021 stated that the institutions, where the infrastructure facilities were ready, should not go for outsourcing cooked food. However, officers of many hospitals have opted for outsourcing, despite having the infrastructure facilities.

When *The Hindu* contacted D. Randeep, Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare, he said, individual hospitals would take decisions on food as per the local requirement. "If certain hospitals have gone for outsourcing cooked food, despite having necessary infrastructure facilities, we will look into it," he said.

Regarding the rates, the officer said the department would look into complaints of exorbitant rates if any. "The medical superintendents and local committees look after the pricing," he said.

'Victories in polls show Cong. is gaining strength'

DKS cites Council poll results to back his claim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Reacting to allegations that the Congress' claim to come back to power is based on a fake survey, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday said that more than the survey, the successive victories in recent elections show that the Congres is gaining in strength.

"The BJP leaders are talking that Congress will come to power. We have conducted a survey that showed that situation is favourable to the party. Even if surveys are kept aside, we have done well in Council elections where the party had lost in Mandya and Tumakuru when we were in power," he told presspersons here.

He said: "We have to use the opportunity now. We have won graduates and teachers constituencies that we had not won. I will not say surveys are accurate always, but Council results show that we have done well." When asked if a compromise was brought about between him and Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah over the Chief Ministerial post, he recalled past developments when despite not getting ministerial roles he had not spoken. "Party is more important than individual," he remarked. Mr. Shivakumar said that party leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, have decided to face elections with collective leadership.

On Siddaramotsava

To another question if Siddaramotsava being organised as part of Mr. Siddaramaiah's birthday was a show of strength, Mr. Shivakumar said: "Let us do whatever is good for the party. We cannot say it is wrong. Individuals have different ways of celebrating birthday. I went to Kedarnath with my family and had told that I don't want any celebrations or publicity for my birthday. Mallikarjun Kharge's followers want to celebrate his 50 years of being legislator and MP and G. Parameshwara's fans want a book to be released. Can fault be found with this?"

Muniyappa expresses displeasure against party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The decision of the Congress leaders here to admit a couple of local leaders in Kolar into the party fold without the knowledge of former Union Minister and Congress Working Committee member K.H. Muniyappa has miffed the veteran leader, who has expressed his anguish.

Mr. Muniyappa, who has represented Kolar for seven times in the Lok Sabha and angry at his own partymen causing his defeat in the 2019 general elections, has expressed displeasure at KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah for keeping him away while deciding and admitting local leaders M.C. Sudhakar and Kothanur Manjunath into the party. He is learnt to be upset particularly of the way in which former Minister and former Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar, who represents Srinivaspura in Kolar district, is handling the Congress affairs in Kolar, which was once a Congress bastion that fell into the BJP in 2019.

Sources said that he has conveyed his displeasure at being sidelined despite his seniority by the two leaders to the Congress General Secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala, who has tried to pacify the veteran leader. Mr. Muniyappa also aired his displeasure before his supporters in Kolar on Saturday.

Sources close to him said that the party has admitted leaders, who had worked against the Congress in 2019 that led to his defeat. "Why did the party admit them and what was the urgency? Why was I not consulted in the affairs of Kolar. The party has admitted those who handed defeat to us. It is an insult to those who stood by the party."

Meanwhile, as speculations surfaced about his possible move to join Janata Dal (Secular) following his conversation with the leaders in the party, Mr. Muniyappa scoffed them as rumours. "It is media's creation. Why should I leave the party where I have a good standing?" he told *The Hindu*, refusing to elaborate on the ongoing issues in the party Kolar unit.

Tigress on the prowl captured

It has been shifted to wildlife rescue centre in Mysuru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

A tigress which was on the prowl on the outskirts of Gopalswamy Betta range of Bandipur National Park, was tranquilised and captured by the authorities on Sunday.

The animal had struck terror among the local residents of Gopalpura village in Gundlupet taluk of Chamarajanagar district as it had killed a cow besides attacking two farmers who were shifted to hospital for treatment on Saturday.

As soon as the news of tiger attack reached the Forest Department it sent a team of wildlife veterinarians; senior officials from the district administration also reached the spot to take stock of the situation. The area was cordoned off to keep the people at bay and elephants Abhimanyu and Srikanta were deployed for combing the place. The authorities managed to take multiple images of the tigress during combing and the photos were sent to the Tiger Cell in Bengaluru which identified it as Bandipur15_420 based on the stripe pattern in its database. The tigress is around 10 years old and used to be sighted in the Hediyala range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve regularly from 2014-15 to 2020-21.

The tigress which was captured on the outskirts of Gopalswamy Betta under Bandipur Tiger Reserve, on Sunday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

P. Ramesh Kumar, Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve said the operation to tranquilise and capture the tigress commenced at 6 a.m. on Sunday with elephants Abhimanyu and Srikanta in the lead. After more than two hours of combing the tigress was cornered and the wildlife veterinarians fired the dart with tranquilizer at 8.45 a.m.

The dart found its mark and the tigress was sedated. The authorities examined the sedated tigress and discovered that it had multiple injuries on its body including the fore limbs, shoulder, belly portion and near the tail. Besides, the tigress was emaciated.

A numismatist's depiction of the Bahmani Sultans

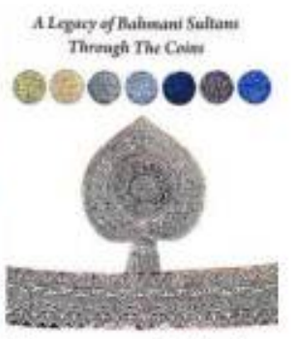
Mohammad Ismail has got a rare treasure of coins dating from the 14th to 16th Century

PRAVEEN B. PARA
KALABURAGI

The Gulbarga Bahmani Numismatics Research and Educational Trust recently published a book titled 'A Legacy of Bahmani Sultans through coins' authored by numismatist Mohammad Ismail in which he depicts the numismatic journey of Bahmani Sultans through his collections.

The book traces the journey of coins belonging to all the 18 Bahmani Sultans starting from Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah (1347-58), till the last Sultan - Kalimullah Shah (1526-1538). Mr. Ismail has meticulously worked, richly illustrated, about each coin issued during Bahmani Sultans period.

Mr. Ismail has got a rare treasure of antique coinage, belonging to Bahmani Sultans from 14th Century to 16th Century. The numismatist has more than 2,500 coins in his collection of various rulers, dynasties and kingdoms. Among his treasury are also coins dating back to 1,600 years ago.



Numismatist Mohammad Ismail with his coin collections, and (right) cover page of the book on Bahmani Sultans. •ARUN KULKARNI

The numismatist also organises a campaign "Save Coin Save Heritage." The objective of this campaign is to spread awareness about ancient coins at schools and to take forward the legacy to younger generations.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, the numismatist explained the legacy of Bahmani Sultans and displayed a collection of nearly 80 copper coins issued in one year period between 1378-1379, and said that all the four Sultans including Dawood Shah-I, Muhammad Shah-II, Ghiyasuddin Tahmathan Shah, Shamshuddin Dawood Shah-II (4th, 5th, 6th and 7th sultans, respectively), have ruled for less than a year. His collection has got nearly 500 coins issued during Tajuddin Firoz Shah (8th Bahmani sultan), followed by 400 coins of Muhammad Shah-I (the second Bahmani sultan), and 300 coins of Kalimullah Shah (18th Bahmani sultan) Period.

According to Mr. Ismail, the study of coins gives insights into history as no other source does. The enthusiast numismatist tries to enhance his collection by getting in touch with collectors across India. His collection includes coins of various shapes, sizes and weights issued during different reigns made up of gold, silver, bronze and copper, some very rare.

When asked about the estimated value of coins in his collection, Mr. Ismail said that the value of each coin varied depending on its age, rarity and material. "But for me, as a numismatist, it is the coin's age and rarity which matters more than its price," he said.

Some of the rarest coins in his collections are of Tahmatun Shah, Dawood Shah, Ahmed Shah III, Muhammad Shah IV and Mujahidin Shah. Mr. Ismail's rare collection includes 10 copper and one gold and silver coin minted during the Tahmatan Shah period. It took him eight years to find those coins.

MBG-BGE

Celebrating the unknown and the unsung

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch year-long celebrations to remember contributions of Alluri Sitarama Raju

G. KISHAN REDDY

Hundred years ago, in August 1922, the forests of the Godavari Agency in Madras Presidency witnessed attacks on three police stations over three continuous days. Alluri Sitarama Raju, along with 500 tribals, attacked the police stations of Chintapalli, Krishnadevipeta, and Rajavommangi and walked away with 26 police carbine rifles and 2,500 rounds of ammunition.

Sitarama Raju did not belong to the tribal community but understood the restrictions that the British colonial administration placed on the tribal way of life. Forced labour, embargoes on collecting minor forest produce and bans on tribal agriculture practices led to severe distress among the Koyas of the Godavari Agency area. Known as the "Rampa Rebellion" or "Manyam Rebellion", between August 1922 and May 1924, Alluri led a protracted battle against the British in support of the tribal community. Legend has it that Alluri Sitarama Raju himself would forewarn the British officers of an imminent attack and would challenge them to stop him with the superior resources that they had at hand. He was finally captured, tied to a tree and shot dead. However, the patriotic spark that he and several other heroes across the nation reinforced continues to thrive within all of us.

Has today's India adequately heard about Alluri and the Rampa Rebellion?

Standing tall: Statue of the revolutionary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju on the Beach Road, in Visakhapatnam.

For that matter, the Rampa Rebellion serves as a proxy for the many struggles of tribal and non-tribal communities against British rule that have either been completely forgotten or have not gotten the attention that they deserve. Popular cinema has often tried filling the gap and they have been fairly successful at that. However, film is just one dimension in restoring such incidents into our national consciousness.

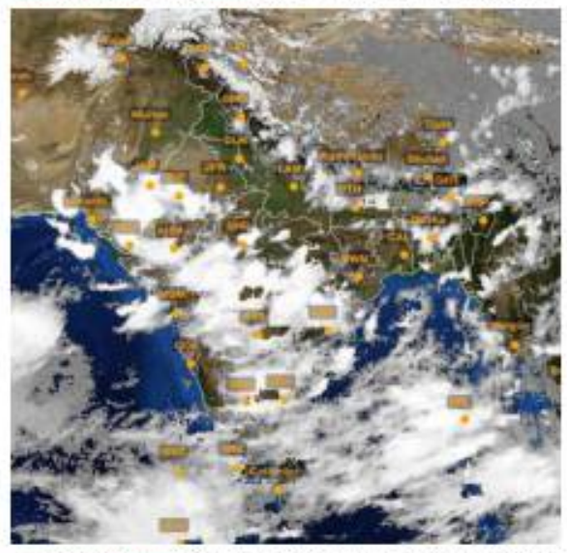
To revive our memories and to remember the contributions of heroes such as Alluri Sitarama Raju, Prime Minister Narendra Modi plans to be in Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh on July 4. He will launch the year-long celebrations on the 125th birth anniversary of Alluri, enabling a new generation to be aware of the heroics of Alluri and the sacrifices he made for the tribal community.

It is the structured efforts of identifying and curating episodes in our past that we've lacked so far and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav has given us an opportunity to address this. On March 12, 2021, India began a 75-week countdown to the 75th anniversary of Independence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav from Sabarmati Ashram and unveiled one of the world's largest programmes of this nature in terms of scope and participation. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav gives us the opportunity to celebrate the unsung, the unknown and the underappreciated. It is a unique opportunity for the governments at all levels to come together with civil society, NGOs, spiritual organisations and passionate individuals to recognise the people and events that made us India. Several initiatives such as the recently held International Day of Yoga saw overwhelming mass participation. Now Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav has been extended for one additional year till August 15, 2023. This give us several such opportunities to pay tributes to our heroes and recognise their contributions in building Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat.

(G. Kishan Reddy is the Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region)

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Goa, Coastal Karnataka and Kerala. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	35.9	26.9	Kozhikode	23.3	29.0	24.2
Ahmedabad	21.0	36.8	26.8	Kurnool	–	34.5	25.6
Aizawl	30.0	28.3	21.3	Lucknow	0.2	37.6	27.5
Allahabad	1.2	34.2	27.4	Madurai	4.0	37.4	26.0
Bengaluru	0.2	28.5	21.1	Mangaluru	49.6	29.2	22.0
Bhopal	2.6	33.5	25.0	Mumbai	7.0	31.4	26.9
Bhubaneswar	1.0	33.0	25.1	Mysuru	6.0	31.0	20.0
Chandigarh	26.8	34.6	25.2	New Delhi	0.2	35.7	24.5
Chennai	–	34.6	27.5	Patna	–	35.6	26.5
Coimbatore	0.8	29.9	22.7	Port Blair	3.0	30.4	25.2
Dehradun	113.0	33.4	23.2	Puducherry	1.0	35.2	26.0
Gangtok	2.0	23.5	18.1	Pune	0.6	31.4	22.8
Goa	5.0	31.5	25.5	Raipur	1.8	35.5	25.0
Guwahati	–	35.5	27.5	Ranchi	0.6	30.9	23.4
Hubballi	–	22.0	27.0	Shillong	4.0	25.5	18.0
Hyderabad	0.5	33.0	23.6	Shimla	10.9	23.6	17.0
Imphal	24.0	30.8	22.9	Srinagar	–	33.7	23.6
Jaipur	9.8	31.8	26.3	Thiruvananthapuram	25.9	26.8	23.2
Kochi	8.0	28.0	23.8	Tiruchi	0.2	35.5	27.8
Kohima	7.0	25.0	17.6	Vijayawada	30.0	33.4	23.6
Kolkata	44.0	31.7	25.7	Visakhapatnam	–	32.7	27.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	13	53	49	49	
Bengaluru	11	21	23	76	109	
Chennai	10	–	75	25	51	
Delhi	13	242	18	72	95	
Hyderabad	21	31	88	50	73	
Kolkata	12	14	16	48	65	
Lucknow	9	111	56	57	74	
Mumbai	1	–	50	178	165	
Pune	43	65	84	84	63	
Visakhapatnam	13	50	23	76	98	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Saharsa, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 195 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 21.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

All roads lead to Parade Grounds in Hyderabad

People make a beeline to listen to PM

ABHINAY DESHPANDE
HYDERABAD

People travelling by different modes of transport made their way to listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Vijay Sankalp Sabha of the BJP at Parade Grounds in Hyderabad on Sunday.

Every village and mandal from all the 33 districts booked their date for this grand political event. The saffron party leaders did not leave any stone unturned in mobilising the supporters for the grand event.

While South Central Railway ran 10 special trains to the capital from different parts of the State, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation gave on hire 1,102 buses for the day, according to TSRTC Managing Director V.C. Sajjanar.

The Parade Grounds was from where Prime Minister Modi symbolically kick-started the mega campaign to capture power in the State. Apart from trains and buses, including scheduled ones, thousands of supporters started from their places late on Saturday night or in the wee hours of Sunday in their own or hired four-wheelers and reached Hyderabad much before the public meeting started.

Amit Shah dares KCR to face elections

BJP leaders say people made up mind to install saffron party in Telangana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has dared the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) leadership to go for Assembly elections anytime and said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is game for it with a vow to form the next government in Telangana.

Speaking at the 'Vijay Sankalp Sabha' public meeting organised here on Sunday to mark the conclusion of the two-day national executive of the party, he said it was not Prime Minister Narendra Modi who owed answers to the TRS government but it was Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao who needed to answer the people of Telangana on several poll promises, including providing jobs to the youth.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the BJP's national executive meeting in Hyderabad on Sunday. • NAGARA GOPAL

"It means only employment to his (KCR's) son and not for other youth in the State. He wants to make his son Chief Minister and has no concern, whatsoever, for the unemployed youth," he said. Mr. Shah alleged that the Congress had divided combined Andhra Pradesh with unending disputes between the two successor States.

The BJP government at the Centre had created three new States in the past – Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh – but no bad blood had remained among anybody.

He accused the TRS of giving the State's steering to Mr. Owaisi (Asaduddin Owaisi of AIMIM) and said only because of fear of hurting the latter, KCR was also not celebrating the Hyderabad Liberation Day, which he used to speak time and again before becoming the Chief Minister.

'Ensure Tiranga campaign's success'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State government has issued a circular ordering all higher educational institutions and institutions under the Department of Collegiate & Technical Education (DCTE) to ensure the success of the Union government's Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

The campaign aims at hoisting the national flag at all houses from August 11 to 17 to mark the platinum jubilee of Indian Independence.

Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan has urged all colleges and institutions coming under the purview of the universities in the State and government/ aided/ unaided colleges under DCTEto exhibit their national pride by hoisting the national flag, stated a release.

Accused in gold smuggling case claims threat to her life

Swapna Suresh files petition before Kerala Police Chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Swapna Suresh, an accused in the UAE diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, has said that she had received calls on Saturday threatening to kill her if she spoke of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his family members and former Minister K.T. Jaleel to investigators probing the case.

Following this, I had submitted a petition before State Police Chief Anil Kant along with screenshots and recording of the call. The threatening calls from a person, who said he was calling on behalf of Maradu Aneesh, a history-sheeter, seemed to be aimed at derailing my deposition before the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

This was the first time that she was receiving such a threat directly from a phone. Such calls were earlier through the Internet, she told mediapersons here on Sunday.

Swapna Suresh

Swapna had recently sought protection by Central forces for her and her family under the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018, stating that she had lost trust in Kerala police. Referring to summons issued to her by the crime branch, she wondered how she would appear before both the ED and the crime branch, for a case that was already being probed by the ED.

She alleged that the police had been threatening her house owner after she shifted to a rented house in Kochi. I shifted here since agencies probing the case and my lawyers were based here, she said.

The ED had recently informed the special court for cases booked under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act that it was devoid of any mechanism or alternative to provide Central government protection to Swapna.

Man dead, another missing as car plunges into Arabian sea

Tragedy occurred on Trasi-Maravanthe Beach stretch

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

A man died, one went missing and two escaped with injuries when the car in which they were travelling plunged into the Arabian Sea from National Highway 66 at the famous Maravanthe Beach in Udupi district late on Saturday night.

The deceased was 28-year-old Viraj Acharya, son of Vilas Marbles owner Ramesh Achar Neramballi and resident of Golibettu in Beejadi village of Kundapur taluk, the police said. The body was found in the driver's seat with the seat belt tied when the wreck was removed. His cousin Roshan was found missing and feared to have drowned. Two of his other cousins, Sandesh and Karthik, escaped with minor injuries. It was said that the four started their journey from Koteshwara past midnight towards Byndoor on NH 66. When the car approached the Trasi-Maravanthe Beach stretch, the driver appeared to have lost control and the vehicle plunged into the sea that was below the road surface by 20' to 40'. As the car fell on the boulders of groyens erected for beach protection, Sandesh and Karthik came out of the vehicle. And, Sandesh climbed up seeking help from those on the highway. With no one responding, he walked till Trasi Junction and informed some people in Beejadi. They reportedly came back with help and rescued an injured Karthik.

The car is seen caught amid the boulders that have been laid for beach protection at Maravanthe in Udupi district. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SFI dismisses Wayanad committee for violence

It condemns attack on Congress leader Rahul's office

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Student Federation of India (SFI) on Sunday dismissed the outfit's district committee (DC) in Wayanad for vandalising Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's regional office in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency on June 25.

The SFI had earned widespread condemnation for the "wanton violence." The incident had also portrayed the CPI(M) in an unflattering light on the national stage. Currently, as many as 24 SFI activists, including women, are in judicial remand in connection with the attack.

The SFI State committee, which met in Thrissur on Sunday, held the SFI district committee squarely responsible for the incident. It dismissed the current disposition and constituted a new ad hoc SFI district committee.

The State committee reportedly felt that SFI activists had no business organising a march to Mr. Gandhi's office to highlight the uncertainty faced by Wayanad residents threatened by the Supreme Court decision to impose an ecologically sensitive buffer zone within a one kilometre radius of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

The State committee reportedly felt that SFI workers in Wayanad could have organised the protest differently to express solidarity with local residents.

It also pointed out that CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan had disallowed protest marches to other party offices and facilities.

The aftermath of the violence manifested in angry protest marches, street violence, skirmishes with the police and tit-for-tat attacks on the Congress and the CPI (M) party offices across the State.

The ripples set off by the attack were yet to subside. The incident exacerbated political tensions further, with the CPI(M) blaming the Congress.

Maoist posters call for armed insurgence

STAFF REPORTER
KOZHIKODE

Security personnel including Kerala's elite Thunderbolts commandos and the local police are on high alert in rural areas of Kozhikode in the wake of noticing suspected Maoist posters exhorting the public to get prepared for an armed insurgence against the proposed buffer zone along wildlife sanctuaries.

The posters were spotted at Thazhathangadi near Pasukkadavu in Kuttiyadi on Saturday.

The posters that showered bitter criticism against the buffer zone regulations hailed the local farmers who stood by them against the latest Supreme Court order on the issue.

Madras HC to hear plea against AIADMK general council today

Leaders accused of contempt of court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court is slated to hear on Monday a plea to restrain the AIADMK from convening its general council on July 11.

The court will also take a call on staying the appointment of A. Tamil Magan Hussain as the party's presidium chairman.

Justices M. Duraiswamy and Sunder Mohan would also take up for hearing an application filed by general council member M. Shanmugum to punish party leaders Edappadi K. Palaniswami, C.Ve. Shanmugam, K.P. Munusamy, Mr. Hussain, D. Jayakumar and Dindigul C. Sreenivasan for alleged contempt of court.

Filing a series of sub-applications in a pending original side appeal, the litigant told the court that party founder M.G. Ramachandran had intended that its supremo should always get elected by the primary members and therefore the by-laws were also drafted to reflect his intention.

Single vote

Accordingly, former Chief Ministers O. Panneerselvam and Mr. Palaniswami were elected as coordinator and co-coordinator respectively through a single vote process in December 2021. Such a process had to be ratified by the general council that met on June 23 this year. However, when news leaked in the media that there was a plan to pass a resolution in favour of unitary leadership at the meeting, the litigant filed a civil suit in the High Court on June 22 and sought an interim order restraining the party from passing any such resolution.

A single judge refused to pass any such interim order. However, on appeal, the Division Bench, led by Justice Duraiswamy, restrained the general council from taking a decision on any new resolution but for 23 draft resolutions that had been approved by Mr. Panneerselvam.

The order was passed at 4.40 a.m. on June 23 after a special hearing held at the judge's residence and it was communicated to counsel representing the party and its leaders. Yet, in defiance of the order, Mr. Palaniswami moved a resolution to appoint Mr. Hussain as the presidium chairman and it was seconded by Mr. Jayakumar and Mr. Sreenivasan, the litigant claimed.

unanimously accepted

Those who seconded the resolution also claimed it was unanimously accepted by the general council. Stating that the appointment of Mr. Hussain was not part of the 23 draft resolutions that the court had permitted the general council to discuss, the litigant claimed Mr. Palaniswami, Mr. Jayakumar and Mr. Sreenivasan had therefore wilfully disobeyed the court order.

He contended Mr. Hussain was also guilty of contempt since the latter, after being appointed as the presidium chairman, announced that the next general council meeting would be held on July 11.

Wake-up call

Landslides in Manipur are related to avoidable, man-made actions

The landslide that occurred last week in the Tupul area in Manipur's Noney district will go down as one of the severest natural disasters in the State, with the death toll reaching 37 and 28 people remaining trapped below the debris even as rescue efforts were on. The tragic disaster has been compounded by the debris of the landslide blocking the Ijei river, creating a significant welling up of water which could inundate low-lying areas if the "dam"-like structure is breached. While the administration has sought to ease the water outflow from the stored water, inclement weather has hampered the pace of the efforts and the government and disaster management officials must now take precautions to ensure that the consequences of the disaster do not snowball even further. The fact that such a disaster occurred in a railway construction site in a landslide-prone area should give development planners and government officials in the State pause. While the Himalayan States in northern India and other States with hill/ghat terrain such as Kerala have registered the bulk of landslides in the last decade or so according to government data, the number of such incidents in Manipur (20 between 2014 and 2020) is not insignificant. The relatively high number of casualties accompanying these landslides and the fact that the Environment Ministry has itself acknowledged that the disasters were "anthropogenically" induced are a matter of serious concern for the State. The Ministry identified the causes of landslides in Manipur as "a result of modification of slopes for construction, widening of road, quarrying for construction materials, fragile lithography, complex geological structures and heavy rainfall".

As a post-facto exercise, the State government must look at whether sufficient soil and stability tests were done before choosing the site for railway construction work in the Tupul area. Researchers have corroborated the fact that the areas in western Manipur abutting the national highways fall under very high, high or moderate hazard zones. The severe landslide occurred in the Tupul area despite the government identifying susceptible areas in the State through the National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping project. The uncertain nature of rains, with the monsoon being more intense this year compared to predictions, has added to the problem. An early warning system for landslides is still being developed and refined by the Geological Survey of India and this could help reduce the scale of such disasters, once deployed across vulnerable States. While it is understandable that States in the Northeast are keen on accelerating connectivity projects to uplift a relatively economically backward region, disasters such as the landslide in Tupul point to the dangers of not taking ecological challenges related to deforestation seriously enough. This is a wake-up call for governments in States that are prone to landslides regularly.

Dogged by inflation

Policymakers must focus on easing price pressures so as not to derail recovery

Two recent sets of macro-economic data – the Government's Index of Eight Core Industries for May, and S&P Global's survey-based Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the manufacturing sector for June – posit an economy where industrial momentum is being weighed down by relentless price pressures. Provisional output in May across the eight core industries, spanning coal to electricity, grew by an average 18.1% from the corresponding month in 2021, when the COVID-19 pandemic's second wave had badly disrupted economic activity. Core output growth was led by double-digit year-on-year expansions in refinery products, electricity, steel and coal, which together account for three-fourths of the index. The four sectors bearing weights of about 28%, 20%, 18% and 10%, respectively, posted expansions of 16.7%, 22%, 15% and 25.1%, respectively. Cement and fertilizers, too, saw robust growth of 26.3% and 22.8%. However, on a sequential basis, growth in output over April 2022's levels was significantly slower, reflecting the 'optical illusion' created by low production in the year-earlier period. While the index as a whole registered month-on-month growth of 2.6%, petroleum products expanded 1.9%, electricity grew by 1.5%, and steel by a relatively healthier 5%. Disconcertingly, cement, a key building material that reflects activity levels in the job-intensive sectors, actually saw output shrink 3.2% from the preceding month.

The more up-to-date June PMI data separately show price pressures dampened manufacturing growth to the slowest pace in nine months. June's PMI reading eased to 53.9, from 54.6 in May, amid a broad-based slowdown in orders, production, exports and input buying as customers cut back on spending amid inflation worries. Inflation, in fact, so dominates companies' assessment of the outlook that it depressed business confidence to the lowest level in 27 months. A majority 95% of the purchasing managers at the approximately 400 manufacturing companies polled by S&P Global cited the elevated price pressures as the main reason why they foresee no change in output from current levels in the year ahead. The silver lining in the survey, though, is that manufacturers reported their first shortening of input lead times since the onset of COVID-19, a positive augury for businesses' ability to scale up production quickly once demand revives. The onus is on policymakers to ensure that both monetary and fiscal action is focused on reining in inflation. Anything less risks affecting recovery.

The meaning of a 'dynasty-mukt Bharat'

The BJP's clarion call for a dynasty-free Bharat reflects its desire for a meaningful opposition-free Bharat

ASIM ALI

In the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s political strategy, opposition to dynastic politics has gradually moved from the periphery to the centre. This sharpened focus on a 'dynasty-mukt (dynasty-free) Bharat' was at the heart of the party line propounded at the BJP's national executive meet in Hyderabad. Dynastic politics is becoming the meta narrative under which all the proclaimed ills of the opposition parties – corruption, misgovernance, secularism etc. – are sought to be encoded.

Discourse on dynastic politics

At the outset, it is important to note a shift in emphasis in the BJP's discourse on dynastic politics. The charge of "*parivarvaad*" (dynastism)" is now levelled as much against regional parties as the Congress. Post 2019, the BJP has hit a ceiling in its project of national dominance. It has struggled to expand its footprint in eastern and southern States such as Odisha, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. The dominant force which has checked the BJP's rise in all these States happens to be, in varying degrees, dynastic parties. Hindu majoritarianism alone hasn't been able to propel the fortunes of the BJP in these States; thus the need to put dynastic politics at the forefront. The Prime Minister said he wants a strong opposition, liberated from the "clutches of dynasty", which he termed a "disease" that is hollowing out Indian democracy. The recent splitting of the Shiv Sena, apparently orchestrated from New Delhi, was hence presented as a rare and salutary development of a party freeing itself from the stranglehold of a family and returning to its true ideals.

Functions of discourse

There are two main functions of the BJP's discourse on dynastic politics, both of which highlight the nature of the party's political mobilisation. First, the discourse helps the BJP manoeuvre formidable ideological challenges. In U.P., for example, the BJP does not contest the ideology of Mandal/socialist politics or contrast it with the ideology of Hindu nationalism. Instead, it tries to discredit the claim of the Samajwadi Party (SP) to Mandal/socialist politics, while simultaneously assuming part of that space. "I am for the society. When I say fake socialism, it is '*parivarvad*'," the Prime Minister had told an interviewer during the U.P. campaign. Recently, U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath used the floor of the Assembly to chastise SP leader Akhilesh Yadav to learn more about Ram Manohar Lohia's vision, lamenting how "*samajwad* (socialism)" had degenerated into "*mrigtishna* (mirage)".

The same dynamics inform the BJP's political strategy against the linguistic-based parties in the east and south. The BJP wants to avoid a competition between regional identity and nationalism – a contest it knows would be difficult to win. The success of regional parties such as the Trinamool Congress in Bengal, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in Jharkhand, and the Biju Janata Dal in Odisha against the BJP in Assembly elections after 2019 was because of the effective articulation of a distinctive cultural identity, subsumed in the brand of the party leader.

The BJP's discourse of dynastic politics, therefore, seeks to depoliticise the tangled question of primacy of identity. It does this by trying to make the brand of the opposition party leader synonymous with a family rather than a regional-linguistic identity.

Thus, the BJP's reliance on the discourse of dynastic politics is necessitated by the ideological constraints placed upon it, especially in newer political terrains. Insofar as electoral competition is concerned, the BJP's Hindu nationalism is articulated less as an ideology (with definite views on subjects such as caste, class and language) and more as a stance of Hindu majoritarianism vis-à-vis Muslims.

PTI

Second, the party's anti-dynastic discourse is geared towards the long-term objective of deepening the fragmentation of the opposition space. Even in the Nehruvian era, the Congress was never quite the ideological hegemon in much of the country, but controlled the vast majority of the States due to an intensely fragmented opposition space. The BJP hopes for a return to a similar paradigm, but dynastic parties present certain challenges in that regard.

Consider the BJP's dominance in Assam, where the party seamlessly executed its strategy of expansion in a State with a history of regional assertion. This was done by capturing the space previously dominated by its ally, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP). The BJP inducted AGP leaders and appropriated many of their demands. A major reason why the BJP was able to seize the Assamese nationalism space was because this space was not guarded by a dynastic or personalistic party. There wasn't a single leader who owned the brand of Assamese nationalism, particularly not in the faction-ridden AGP. This helped the BJP circumvent its traditional problem of weak State leadership, even as it bolstered its ranks through defections from the AGP and the All Assam Students' Union, which included the previous Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. At present, the regional Assamese party space is divided between the AGP, the Assam Jaitya Parishad and the Rajor Dal. Not even the emotions provoked by the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests could help these disparate forces challenge the supremacy of the BJP under the plank of Assamese identity. In Bihar, the BJP is waiting for the exit of Nitish Kumar from the stage to deliver a similar coup de grâce on the Janata Dal (United).

This strategy of fragmentation and appropriation runs aground in States where the BJP faces a regional dynastic party, especially when the brand of the dynasty is anchored to a linguistic-based identity. For all their faults, dynastic parties are designed to build up the personas of their leadership as well as to resist fragmentation in the long run.

In order to avoid a leadership challenge, particularly in phases of succession, dynastic parties construct their organisations to be closely controlled from the top and restrict any independent structures within the party. Further, they make the ruling family the living emblem of the party values. Hence, potential challengers lack either the organisational clout or the legitimacy to topple the leadership or split the party. After the Janata Party underwent a series of fatal splits in the 1980s and '90s, the political space vacated by it was occupied by a string of dynastic regional parties which consolidated themselves into stable political formations. Or take the case of the famously fractious Akali Dal, which united under the Badals to turn into the pre-eminent political force in Punjab and might now splinter again with the decline of the Badal dynasty.

The Shiv Sena exception

The recent rupture within the Shiv Sena is the exception that proves the norm. Not only has the Eknath Shinde faction required the careful logistical and political support of the country's dominant party to engineer the split, the BJP has also felt it important to hand the rebels the Chief Minister's Office to ensure the success of the split. Taking apart a dynastic party is hard work.

The nurturing of the Shinde faction is, after all, not a benevolent plan to nurse the Sena back to health under a democratic leadership. It is merely the final phase of the scheme, which has been in the works for a decade, to take over the space of the Sena. The recognition of this existential threat was the reason why Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray had moved to the Congress-Nationalist Congress Party camp. In splitting the Sena and damaging the Thackeray brand, the BJP hopes to deliver a mortal wound to its erstwhile Hindutva partner. Without the Thackeray face, the BJP realises, the Shinde faction will always remain a dependent, fledgling one that can be gobbled up at leisure once it finishes its purpose of weakening the parent Sena.

The argument being made is not that dynastic parties represent a resolute shield to the dominance of the BJP. In many respects, the BJP's dominance has been enabled by the political pathologies that are often fuelled by dynastic politics: decaying organisations, the erosion of ideological resources, and de-linking of party structures from socio-political movements. Yet, in this BJP dominant phase, a post-dynastic future might not lead to a strengthened opposition, as the BJP claims, but to a hopelessly disarrayed opposition made up of rump parties. In effect, the call for a dynasty-mukt Bharat is also a desire for a (meaningful) opposition-mukt Bharat.

Asim Ali is a political researcher and columnist based in Delhi

Technology is no panacea for custodial deaths

It can never be an alternative to compassionate policing based on trust between the police and citizens

K. JAYANTH MURALI

India has a grim record in police brutality and custodial violence. Between 2001 and 2018, 1,727 persons died in police custody, but only 26 policemen were convicted for such deaths. The recent spate of custodial deaths in Tamil Nadu has yet again highlighted the methods used by the police during interrogation. It is not uncommon knowledge that the police, when they grow increasingly frustrated with the trajectory of their interrogation, sometimes resort to torture and violence which could lead to the death of the suspect. Custodial deaths are common despite enormous time and money being spent on training police personnel to embrace scientific methods of investigation. This is because police personnel are humans from different backgrounds and with different perspectives.

Use of technology

Given the problem of custodial deaths, technology has been proposed as a silver bullet by many. Several technological solutions are available to help prevent custodial deaths. These include body cameras and automated external defibrillators. There is no doubt that technology can help avert police custodial deaths. For example, body cameras could hold officers liable. Deception detection tests (DDTs), which deploy technologies such as polygraph, narco-analysis and brain mapping, could be valuable in learning information that is known only to a criminal regarding a crime.

Among the DDTs, the Brain Fingerprinting System (BFS) is an innovative technology that several police forces contemplate adding to their investigative tools. BFS has proved helpful for solving crimes, identifying perpetrators, and exonerating innocent suspects. Laboratory and field tests for the BFS at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, and U.S. Navy demonstrated no errors and no false positives and false negatives. The technique helps investigative agencies uncover clues in complicated cases. In June 2008, India convicted an accused leaning on evidence from a BFS device. In 2010, the Supreme Court, in *Selvi v. State of Karnataka*, rendered the evidence inadmissible. The court observed that the state could not perform narco analysis, polygraph, and brain-mapping tests on any individual without their consent. With informed consent, however, any information or material discovered during the BFS tests can be part of the evidence. As the BFS is high-end technology, it is expensive and unavailable in several States.

iSTOCK PHOTO

Police departments are increasingly using robots for surveillance and bomb detection. Many departments now want robotic interrogators for interrogating suspects. Many experts today believe that robots can meet or exceed the capabilities of the human interrogator, partially because humans are inclined to respond to robots in ways that they do to humans. From his studies, human-computer interaction (HCI) researcher Joseph Weizenbaum concluded that suspects might be more receptive to opening up to automated conversational counterparts than the police.

Robots equipped with AI and sensor technology can build a rapport with the suspects, utilise persuasive techniques like flattery, shame and coercion, and strategically use body language. Researchers at the University of Arizona have created automated interrogation technology called The Automated Virtual Agent for Truth Assessments in Real-Time (AVATAR). The Canadian Border Services Agency tested AVATAR last year. The HCI system uses visual, auditory, near-infrared and other sensors to scrutinise a suspect's eye movements, voice, and other qualities throughout an interaction. The aggregation of information and its analysis by the system have been highly accurate.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are emerging as tool of interrogations. AI can detect human emotions and predict behaviour. Therefore, these are also options. ML can in real-time alert superiors when police are meting out inhumane treatment to suspects.

Valid concerns

There is a lot of concern about AI or robot interrogations, both legally and ethically. There exists the risk of bias, the peril of automated interrogation tactics, the threat of ML algorithms targeting individuals and communities, and the hazard of its misuse for surveillance. Therefore, while the technology available to the police and law-enforcement agencies is constantly improving, it is a restricted tool that can't eradicate custodial deaths. While it might provide comfort and transparency, it can never address the underlying issues that lead to these situations.

What we need is the formulation of a multi-pronged strategy by the decision-makers encompassing legal enactments, technology, accountability, training and community relations. The Law Commission of India's proposition in 2003 to change the Evidence Act to place the onus of proof on the police for not having tortured suspects is important in this regard. Besides, stringent action must be taken against personnel who breach the commandments issued by the apex court in *D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal* (1997). The draft bill on the Prevention of Torture, 2017, which has not seen the day, needs to be revived. Technology may make policing more convenient, but it can never be an alternative for compassionate policing established on trust between the police and the citizens.

K. Jayanth Murali is an Indian Police Service officer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Unnecessary words

The harsh language used by the Supreme Court while dismissing Nupur Sharma's plea for clubbing the FIRs registered against her was unwarranted ("Nupur Sharma should have apologised to the nation: SC", July 2). She did not plead with the court to quash the FIRs; she only asked that they be clubbed. What she asked for is what the court has guaranteed to many others. Courts are not supposed to give in to sentiments but follow the rule of law.

M.R. ANAND,
Vrindavan

The courts should have examined the issue and either granted or dismissed the petition. Superfluous comments are bound to reduce the prestige of judiciary. Moral indignation expressed by the court has little meaning unless backed by effective intervention to ensure the rule of law.

MANOHAR ALEMBATH,
Kannur

Towards peace

This refers to "Blaring red: On the Udaipur killing" (June 30). The gruesome murder of Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Udaipur, is a reminder to all, especially the political class, that a lot is rotten in statecraft and politics of India. Since the controversial statement by BJP leader Nupur Sharma a month ago, several States have witnessed protests and violence, resulting in damage to property. Worse, the images of such acts are circulated on social media. The authorities should have taken steps to stop the spread of such inflammatory material. Instead of finding fault with the Congress government in Rajasthan, religious and political leaders must work for peace.

GREGORY FERNANDES,
Mumbai

Crisis and opportunity

The ruling Shiv Sena had ditched its natural ally, the BJP, to form the government in Maharashtra with parties with which it has little in common. Now, after two years, a major part of the Sena has returned to befriend the BJP ("Taming the Tiger: On change of guard in Maharashtra", July 2). The BJP has been clever. By giving the Chief Minister's chair to Eknath Shinde, it has sent the message that it is not power hungry and that the real problem lies with the Shiv Sena. With the Sena at a crossroads, the BJP will be at an advantage in the next general election.

D.V.G.SANKARARAO,
Vizianagaram

Teesta in the dock

One cannot say that as the Supreme Court came down heavily on Nupur Sharma for her thoughtless remarks against the Prophet, its remarks against Teesta Setalvad are equally justified. One cannot draw comparisons between the two. Teesta Setalvad is a human rights activist who has worked all her life for communal harmony and peace. The Supreme Court's direction to put her and others in the dock would be counterproductive for human rights movements. "Her courage is indelibly imprinted in the history of the struggles of human rights defenders in this country, and indeed the world... In the struggle against impunity then, it is to the Constitution and a judiciary with a robust 'constitutional conscience' that citizens will turn" is how Kalpana Kannabiran aptly described the situation in her article in this newspaper. Civil rights activists and journalists pursue public causes zealously and fearlessly. Such is not the case with Nupur Sharma whose speech provoked violence and the Supreme Court rightly condemned her in no uncertain terms.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
Advocate, Madras High Court

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Why is defection a non-issue for voters?

Indian voters are divided on what kind of representatives they prefer voting for

SANJAY KUMAR

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis at a press conference, in Mumbai. • PTI/FILE

The reason why a poor record on honesty and frequent switching of candidates from one political party to another (defection) hardly concerns Indian voters is simply that a very large section of the electorate chooses the party and not the candidate during elections. If merits and demerits of candidates had any bearing on voting considerations of Indian voters, many defectors and candidates with questionable records would not have made it to the Indian Parliament or the Assemblies of different States.

In some instances, there may be well-founded reasons for an elected MLA or MP to defect from one party to another. But the reason why many legislators and parliamentarians defect to other parties for purely personal gains is that they know voters will not punish them for their actions and will support them if they contest election on the ticket of any "popular" political party. Similarly, many of them also know that it is the party's ticket and the popularity of its leader that helps them win the election. What they are careful about is to keep themselves accessible to people and help them in getting their work done. When some voters decide to choose the candidate rather than the party during elections, the ability to get work done remains the biggest asset for the candidate, no matter how.

The findings from the National Elections Studies conducted by Lokniti-CSDS indicate, during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, 58% voters mentioned voting for the party while 33% said they voted for the candidate. The proportion of voters who voted for the party declined slightly to 52% during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections while 37% voters preferred voting for the candidate. There is a slight increase in candidate-centred voting amongst Indian voters during the last few years, but the evidence over the years for Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections suggests that a large majority of Indian voters vote for the party and not for the candidate. This party-centred approach is prevalent amongst both uneducated as well as educated voters, amongst urban and rural voters and amongst voters with various degrees of media exposure. It is this strong trend of party-centred voting which neutralises any displeasure, if at all, that voters may have about their chosen representatives defecting and contesting again on a different party ticket.

Relocating mandate

There are numerous examples, of defectors being re-elected, on a party ticket against which they had contested the previous election. Twenty-two sitting legislators of the Congress party, some of them Ministers in the Kamal Nath government, defected to the BJP in Madhya Pradesh in March 2020, of whom 19 were re-elected again to the House as BJP legislators. Another instance that is fresh in our minds is that of Mahesh Iranagouda Kumathalli, who become the MLA of Athani Assembly constituency in Karnataka in 2018 on a Congress ticket, but crossed over to the BJP and got re-elected to the House. How could one forget Suvendu Adhikari's defection from Trinamool Congress to the BJP, and his subsequent re-election to the West Bengal Assembly, defeating the sitting Chief Minister and heavy weight Mamata Banerjee. These are just few examples from the long list of defectors getting re-elected soon after their defections and occupying prime positions. Let us not forget, Vishwajit Rane, who resigned as Congress MLA of Valpoi, Goa, and the Minister of Health, Agriculture & Craftsmen Training on March 16, 2017, joined the BJP on April 7, 2017 and became part of Parrikar government with health portfolio. While this has been the dominant trend, the 2022 Assembly elections in Goa came as an exception when nine of the 12 defectors lost the Assembly election, some very badly. Nevertheless, it is the broad trend which seems to encourage MLAs and MPs to change parties without any valid reasons except for personal gains.

We can broadly predict when the four seasons – winter, spring, summer and monsoon – set in, but one cannot predict when and where defections are likely to take place. Defection is not new to Indian politics, and has been around for a long time. Voters have seen it as a routine exercise in Indian politics, and do not consider it an evil practice. There have been several attempts by various governments at different points of time to strengthen laws to curb this menace in politics. It was first introduced in the 4th Lok Sabha in 1967 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, but the Act finally came into being in 1984 during Rajiv Gandhi government's tenure. Important amendments to Anti-Defection law introduced in 2003 by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government to strengthen the legislation failed to bring about the desired results. The political drama that recently unfolded in Maharashtra involving 37 Shiv Sena legislators is another example of how Anti-Defection law is being misused by contesting groups/sides and dissident legislators for personal and political gains.

Voting preferences

Evidence from the National Election study indicates that the views of Indian voters are divided on what kind of representatives they would prefer to vote for. Many of them do not express strong reservations against candidates with tainted backgrounds or those involved in corrupt practices. While many are happy to vote for an honest but inaccessible candidate (48%), there are others (24%), who are happy to vote for a candidate who is corrupt but accessible.

Similarly, 36% voters are ready to vote for a candidate with criminal background, but gets works done, while 35% are ready to vote for an honest candidate, but can't get work done. I think we are close to answering why defection and corruption do not matter much to Indian voters.

Sanjay Kumar is a professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi and a political analyst. The views expressed are personal

We need an urgent national plan on electrical safety

More funding and coordinated action are needed

SREEKUMAR NHALUR

There are reasons to be proud of the growth of the Indian power sector since independence. There has been significant growth in infrastructure, nearly all households have an electricity connection, amid promises of providing 24x7 electrical supply and achieving net zero emissions by 2070. While these are commendable, there are also many problems that the sector faces, electrical accidents being a tragic one.

Understanding the problems and failures is essential for growth and success. And it is unfortunate that the increasing rate of electrical accidents is a problem that has not received sufficient attention of those who plan, regulate and operate the electricity sector. National or State policies or programmes do not provide targets or specific resource allocation for safety. In some cases where resource is allocated, it is under-utilised or a small portion is spent on staff for safety kits or training.

Rising fatalities

As per the data from the National Crime Records Bureau, the number of fatalities and rate of deaths (per lakh population) due to electric shocks and fires has been steadily increasing over the years. From 2,957 deaths and 0.36 deaths per lakh population in 1990, it has increased to 15,258 deaths and 1.13 deaths per lakh population in 2020. Data from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) conveys the same story in terms of increasing fatal accidents. It is worth mentioning that in many developed countries, the number of deaths has been reducing over the years and the deaths per lakh population is of the order of 0.03 or lower.

Accidents, as the saying goes, do not just happen, but are caused. From the analysis of available data, it appears that over 90% of the people who die due to electrical accidents are the general public. Hence, any attempt to reduce such accidents must include the safety of general public as a top priority.

Geographically, most of the electrical accidents appear to be taking place in rural areas, but considering the rapid urbanisation, poor urban localities also need attention. In electrical terms, most accidents occur in the distribution system and at non-industrial consumer locations. Most fatalities occur at distribution network (specifically 11 kV and Low-Tension systems) and Low-Tension consumer locations, and therefore need higher attention.

Electrocution due to accidental contact with live conductors is the immediate cause for accidents in a majority of cases. The reason could be snapping or sagging of conductors, or exposed switch boards at low heights. The second major reason is fire due to electrical faults, which accounts for around 12% of the accidents. Poor design, construction, inadequate maintenance, inadequate protection systems and lack of safety awareness are some of the root causes.

Safety checks and balances

There are safety regulations prepared by the CEA, which all electricity utilities are expected to follow. But there is no mechanism to ensure that utilities are following them. For example, distribution companies are expected to have safety officers and conduct periodic safety audits. These are not done because revenue collection and fault repairs are higher priorities for the companies. Electrical inspectors in States are expected to approve connections, provide licences to electricians and conduct enquiries on accidents. But they are heavily under-staffed. As for safety professionals, their focus is on industrial safety, and not on safety aspects of the rural public. Many well-meaning grass-root organisations focus on ensuring *ex gratia* for accident victims, not on accident prevention.

Electricity safety is a public interest challenge, which can be met only through coordinated action involving all stakeholders. The implementation of the current safety regulatory regime can be significantly tightened through better data collection, introducing safety aspects in national programmes, strengthening safety institutions, developing safety metric for distribution companies, involving public and professionals in safety initiatives and utilising technological innovations.

The need of the hour is a national programme to reduce electrical accidents in the distribution sector, with clear scope of work, sufficient resource allocation and robust monitoring and verification mechanism. States could identify districts which have reported high accidents in the past few years and chalk out a programme to reduce accidents. Only such measures can ensure that electricity supply is not only universal, affordable and good quality, but also safe.

Sreekumar Nhalur, Prayas (Energy Group), Pune

STATE OF PLAY

Incubating dreams, at scale

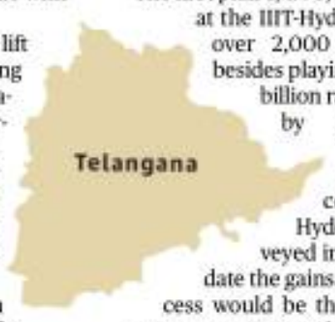
Telangana is banking on robust infra and supportive policies to boost the startup space

N. RAVI KUMAR

On June 28, when doors to the second phase of T-Hub were formally opened the technology startup incubator got a permanent address and Telangana a pride of place.

With a built-up space of 5.82 lakh sq ft, the 10-storied cantilever structure developed in the IT hub of State capital Hyderabad is the world's largest incubator, going past Station F of Paris. Funded from the State Budget, the ₹400- crore facility carries forward the Telangana government's emphasis on achieving scale with new projects.

Be it the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project to bring more land under cultivation or the ambitious Pharma City proposed near Hyderabad, the State has gained a reputation of thinking big. The new facility is a part of the world's largest innovation campus coming up on 18 acres. As neighbours, the incubator will have two more projects conceived by the State government - maker lab T-Works and a 1.6 million sq. ft. IMAGE Tower that will house entities focused on work in the areas of multimedia, animation, gaming and entertainment.



The innovation campus will have a total of 2.3 million sq. ft. built-up space and is set to take shape over next 18-24 months, State IT and Industries Minister K.T. Rama Rao said after his father and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao dedicated the T-Hub facility to young Indians. "If they propose to build an innovative startup, we will provide them with a collaborative innovation ecosystem," the Chief Minister declared.

Changed equations between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), particularly after a by-poll and refusal of the Centre to procure more than the specified quantum of paddy, have given a new purpose to the development projects implemented in the State. They are bound to aid the TRS as the party considers taking up a national role and forging a non-Congress, non-BJP front ahead of the next general elections.

Thus, when the CM said that the incubator has emerged as a national role model, the message was not lost.

Launched in 2015, T-Hub soon morphed from just being a plug and play space provider into an innovation ecosystem enabler, devising programmes for the startups, connecting them with other players globally and most importantly emerging as a platform for the entrepreneurs to access venture capital, government schemes and mentoring services. The first phase, a 70,000 sq ft facility at the IIIT-Hyderabad, helped over 2,000 entrepreneurs besides playing a role in $1.19 billion raised in funding by the startups.

With opening of the second phase, Hyderabad has conveyed intent to consolidate the gains. Aiding the process would be the State government measures to improve ease of doing business and the cosmopolitan outlook of Hyderabad. Much would depend on how startups respond since Bengaluru, the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), Mumbai-Pune region are ahead, primarily by virtue of being early movers and backed by a strong ecosystem.

The startup culture, emergence of unicorns (startups valued more than $1 billion) and the challenges for which a solution can be found using technology, however, has ensured there is space for all players. Given the comparably robust infrastructure, cosmopolitan nature of Hyderabad and the image of a proactive government, Telangana is likely to build on those strengths. In doing so, something Mr. Rama Rao also sought to highlight, the State would like more startups to succeed, remain sustainable as an enterprise and look at long term than just achieve higher valuation. By way of numbers, T-Hub is aiming to support 20,000 startups in the next five years.

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DATA POINT

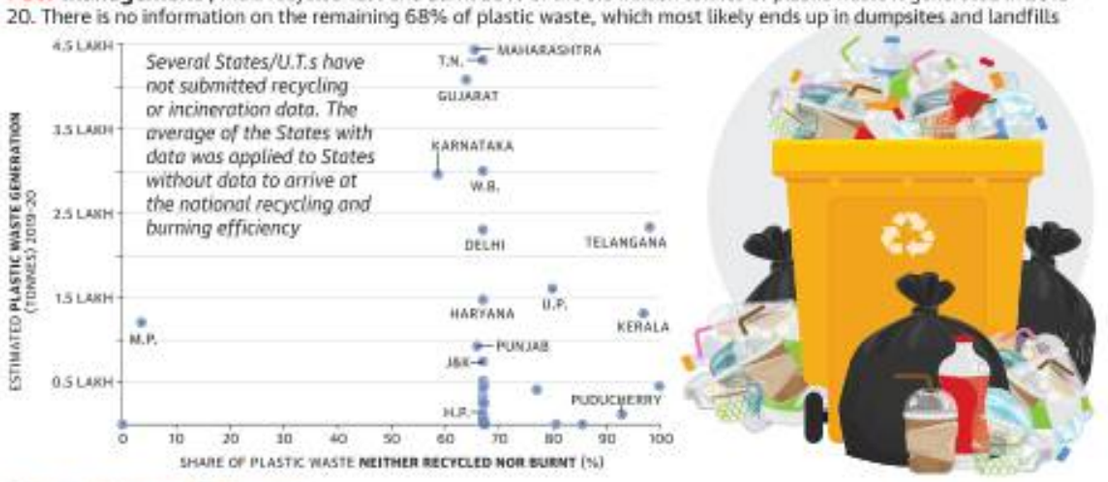
Measuring India's plastic problem

Ban on certain single-use plastics (SUP) kicked in on July 1 across India. An array of items, including ice cream sticks, thermocol, plates, cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, straws, trays, wrapping or packaging films and cigarette packets, have been banned. Data from *Down to Earth*'s **State of India's Environment 2022 report** show that 35% of India's plastic waste is in the form of multi-layered packaging, which are non-recyclable. Moreover, 68% of plastic waste ends up in dumpsites and landfills, with only 12% recycled and 20% burnt, the report estimates. According to **OurWorldInData**, India generates 9.5 kg of mismanaged waste that are at a high risk of entering the ocean.

India's plastic waste share | Multi-layered plastics, which are non-recyclable at a commercial scale, make up 35% of India's plastic waste

Type	Share	Description
PS	1%	**Polystyrene** is an inexpensive resin found everywhere: from beverage cups to egg cartons and disposable dinnerware. Environmentally-speaking it's among the worst types of plastic
HDPE	7%	**High-Density Polyethylene** is an incredibly resistant resin used for grocery bags, milk jugs, recycling bins, among others. They are one of the easiest plastic polymers to recycle
PET	12%	**Polyethylene terephthalate** is mostly used for food and drinking packaging purposes as it prevents oxygen from spoiling the contents inside. It is the most widely recycled plastic in the world
PP	14%	**Polypropylene** can withstand high temperatures and are used in tupperwares, car parts, thermal vests, among others
LDPE	31%	**Low density polyethylene** has the simplest structure of all the plastics, making it easy and cheap to produce. It is used in plastic bags, various containers, and not often recycled
MLP	35%	**Multi-layered packaging** is made of plastics and other composite layers such as aluminuim foil and others. These are used for packaging. They are non-recyclable at a commercial scale

Poor management | India recycled 12% and burnt 20% of the 3.5 million tonnes of plastic waste it generated in 2019-20. There is no information on the remaining 68% of plastic waste, which most likely ends up in dumpsites and landfills



Mismanaged waste
Mismanaged waste is material which is at high risk of entering the ocean via wind or tidal transport, or carried to coastlines from inland waterways. **In 2019, India produced an estimated 9.5 kg of mismanaged waste per person**

The amount of mismanaged plastic waste was very low in N. America & Europe
Volume was higher in many African and S. American nations
Mismanaged amount was middling in the Indian subcontinent
MISMANAGED PLASTIC WASTE PER CAPITA, 2019
NO DATA 0 kg 1 kg 2.5 kg 5 kg 10 kg 20 kg 40 kg 80 kg

SOURCE: STATE OF INDIA'S ENVIRONMENT 2022 REPORT, OURWORLDINDATA

The Hindu.
FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 4, 1972

India and Pak. to end confrontation

The historic agreement signed by the Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan in Simla last night pledges the two countries to the pursuit of a policy of peaceful coexistence and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity, national unity and political independence.

The agreement enjoins India and Pakistan to settle the basic issues and causes of their conflicts in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations either through bilateral negotiations or by any other peaceful means mutually agreed upon by them. And pending a final settlement of these problems, they have agreed to refrain from any attempt to alter the situation unilaterally and to prevent the organisation, assistance and encouragement of any acts detrimental to the maintenance of peaceful and harmonious relations between them.

The two neighbouring countries have also agreed to normalise their relations step by step and to restore telecommunications, sea, land and air links including overflights, travel, trade and economic co-operation, and scientific and cultural exchanges as far as possible.

To initiate the process of the establishment of durable peace, the two governments have decided to withdraw the Indian and Pakistani forces to their side of the international border within 30 days of the ratification of the agreement.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 4, 1922

The American parallel

The fight for freedom is in its underlying spirit and essential aspects almost always the same in every country. So a study of the struggle through which other people have won their liberty in the past must prove to be of no small value to us in our present attempt. The goal that we have in view and the methods that we are prepared to employ may be in many respects different from those adopted by the nation whose history we are studying. Still, since human nature and the secret of success in such struggles are very much the same all the world over, we have to gain much from a careful and sympathetic study of the achievement of freedom by any country, and especially one like America which once raised her standard of revolt against the same Imperialism which we are now suffering under.

FROM PAGE ONE

BJP nominee elected Speaker in Maharashtra

NCP MLAs Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik are behind bars. With the NCP's Mr. Zirwal presiding over the affairs, the party's Nilesh Lanke, Dilip Mohite, Dattatraya Bharane, Anna Bansode and Babandada Shinde remained absent along with two ailing BJP MLAs Laxman Jagtap and Mukta Tilak. The Congress's Praniti Shinde and Jitesh Antapurkar and AIMIM MLA Mufti Sayed too were absent.

Two MLAs of the Samajwadi Party and one AIMIM MLA abstained from voting. Out of the 271 votes polled, 164 votes were in favour of Mr. Narvekar and 107 were against.

Three independents – Devendra Bhuyar, Sanjay Shinde and Shankarrao Gadakh – voted in favour of the MVA while the rest of the independents decided to back the BJP.

Earlier, the two fighting groups of the Sena had issued whips against each other. Mr. Shinde faction's whip Bharat Gogawale had asked all party MLAs to vote for Mr. Narvekar while Sena whip Sunil Prabhu had asked all party MLAs to vote for Mr. Salvi.

During the head count, 16 Sena MLAs voted against the government, while 39 others voted in favour, violating the whips. Upon conclusion of the procedure, Sena group leader Ajay Chaudhary submitted a letter to Mr. Zirwal putting on record the names of 39 Sena MLAs who voted against party whip.

The opposite group too later submitted the same against 16 party MLAs. Rebel group MLA Deepak Kesarkar said that even his group can talk about the whip but today was not the time for this. Mr. Narvekar later told the media that he is in receipt of the letter by both sides.

The office of the Sena legislature party was locked on Sunday morning, claiming it was ordered by the legislature party head.

Shinde's gratitude

After the election of Mr. Narvekar, Mr. Shinde thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president J.P. Nadda and Mr. Fadnavis for giving him the post and also congratulated the Colaba MLA for being elected the Speaker.

"This is the government of the Sena and the BJP and we will take forward the *Hindutva* of Bal Thackeray. This situation is unique that ruling MLAs gave up the power, around eight ministers came with me. There were bigwigs on the other side and I was a small worker of former Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray and my mentor Anand Dighe. I thank all those 50 MLAs who stood with me and supported me," he said.

Countering him, Mr. Prabhu taunted asking how long will the MLAs remain in their position as they have violated the whip.

Curfew relaxed in Udaipur

Mobile Internet service remain suspended, all suspects are under NIA's custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UDAIPUR/JAIPUR

With the situation gradually returning to normal, curfew was relaxed for 10 hours on Sunday in Udaipur, where a tailor was murdered by two men earlier this week

However, mobile Internet services remained suspended.

Curfew was imposed in seven police station areas of Udaipur following the killing of the tailor on Tuesday, which was followed by incidents of violence.

"The situation is becoming normal in the city. Therefore, it was decided to relax curfew from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.," a district administration official said.

"Normal life is being restored in the city. Peace has been maintained by the local people and the curfew should be lifted completely," a local resident said.

However, markets in Ajmer remained closed on Sunday as a result of a bandh call given by Hindu organisations against the Udaipur incident. A demonstration has also been organised by Hindu outfits in Jaipur, demanding death penalty for the murderers.

Uneasy calm: A fruit vendor waiting for customers in Udaipur on Sunday when the curfew, imposed after the murder of Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor, was relaxed for 10 hours. • PTI

Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Udaipur, was hacked to death on Tuesday by Riaz Akhtari and Ghouse Mohammad.

They had posted a video online saying that had avenged insult to Islam. The two alleged killers were arrested hours later in Rajsamand.

On Thursday night, two more accused who were involved in the recce of the tailor's shop and conspiracy of the murder were also arrested. They are under the custody of the NIA.

'Personal attacks on judges harm rule of law'

SC judge flags use of social media

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

J.B. Pardiwala

Supreme Court judge Justice J.B. Pardiwala on Sunday criticised the use of social media to launch personal attacks on judges, saying this would evolve into a "dangerous scenario".

Justice Pardiwala was the puisne judge on the Vacation Bench led by Justice Surya Kant, which refused to entertain a plea by former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma to club multiple FIRs against her for her alleged remarks about Prophet Muhammed. The hearing had seen scathing oral remarks from the Bench directed towards Ms. Sharma.

However, the Bench's comments had seen a backlash on social media, some directed personally against the judges. "Personal attacks on judges for their judgments lead to a dangerous scenario where the judges have to think about what media thinks instead of what the law really thinks. This harms the rule of law," Justice Pardiwala said in his address at the second Justice H.R. Khanna Memorial National Symposium.

He said social media was being used to express personalised opinions against the judges, rather than a constructive critical appraisal of judgments, adding that this tendency was harming the judicial institution.

Villagers help arrest two militants in Reasi

Self-proclaimed commander of LeT among those nabbed; L-G announces cash reward of ₹5 lakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Sunday said two wanted Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) men, including 'commander' Talib Hussain, were caught by locals and handed over to the police in a village in the Jammu division's Reasi district. Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha announced a reward money of ₹5 lakh for the villagers.

A police spokesperson said the LeT militants, Hussain from Jammu's Rajouri and Faisal Ahmed Dar from south Kashmir's Pulwama, were apprehended by the villagers of Tukson Dhok who "showed extreme courage in apprehending them".

Two AK rifles, seven grenades, one pistol and a huge quantity of ammunition were recovered from their possession, the police said.

The police had recently declared Hussain a wanted militant, who was behind the growing incidents of militancy in the Pir Panjal Valley, including the three blasts in Rajouri district earlier this year. The police also announced a reward on him.

"Hussain was in constant touch with LeT terrorist Qasim based in Pakistan and was involved in at least three cases of improvised explosive device blast in Rajouri district, besides civilian killings and grenade blasts," the police said.

During the preliminary questioning, the police learnt that both the terrorists were also in touch with a Pakistani LeT handler Salman.

BJP link

Mr. Sinha applauded the courage of villagers. "I salute the bravery of villagers of Tukson Dhok, Reasi, who apprehended two most-wanted terrorists. Such determination by the common man shows the end of terrorism is not far away. The UT government will extend ₹5 lakh cash reward to villagers for the gallant act against the terrorists and terrorism in the Union Territory," he said.

Meanwhile, a viral picture on social media platform showed Hussain as a member of the BJP.

The BJP appointed Hussian as in charge of party's IT and social media in Jammu province, as per a statement issued on the party letterhead in May this year.

"Mr. Talib Hussain Shah, at Draj Kotranka, budhan, District Rajouri, shall be the new IT & Social Media Incharge BJP Minority Mocha Jammu Province with immediate effect" read the statement issued by the BJP Minority Morcha J&K.

A BJP leader in Srinagar said the party was looking into the issue.

Militants shoot at policeman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Militants shot and injured a policeman in south Kashmir's Anantnag on Sunday evening.

A police spokesperson said the incident took place around 7.20 p.m. in Hugam Srigufwara of Anantnag.

"Terrorists fired upon a police personnel at his residential house in Hugam Srigufwara, Anantnag. In this incident, he received gunshot injuries," the spokesperson said.

The policeman was identified as senior constable Firdous Ahmad.

War of words over nabbed LeT terrorist

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

A political slugfest erupted between the BJP and the Congress in Jammu and Kashmir after a top Lashker-e-Taiba terrorist, overpowered by locals and handed over to the police, was reported to be an active member of the saffron party.

While J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina dismissed the presence of Talib Hussain Shah in his party as a "conspiracy hatched by Pakistan to target him", Pradesh Congress Committee spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said the ruling party should answer to the nation the alleged presence of terrorists in its ranks.

Tribal woman in M.P. set ablaze over land dispute

Latest statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) show that the number of cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Tribes has been steadily increasing in Madhya Pradesh.

According to the NCRB data, as many as 2,401 cases were registered in 2020, up from 1,922 in 2019 and 1,868 the year before.

Cong. attacks BJP

The Opposition Congress accused the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government of having a "hostile attitude" towards the tribals.

"The woman's husband says that he had given an application to the police on June 23 asking for security as he faced threats, but was not given security cover. I want to ask Shivraj *ji* why his government has such a hostile attitude towards the tribal community? When will the tribal community in the State be safe?," former Chief Minister Kamal Nath asked in a tweet.

Telangana needs twin-engine govt.: PM

He reeled out figures to buttress the claim that the Central government had been allocating huge resources for developing national highways, regional ring roads, roads to villages, women and child welfare, crops procurement, benefiting farmers to the extent of ₹1 lakh crore.

Pandemic battle

The upcoming Ramagundam fertilizers would bring cheer to the entire country as it would ensure sufficient supply of fertilizers and save foreign exchange, he said. Mr. Modi recalled the country's pandemic battle where Hyderabad's biotech industry gave vaccines not only for the country but also supplied them across the world saving a lot of lives.

'BJP helped people'

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government helped the people tide over the crises with the supply of free rations to the poor, ensuring free vaccines and availability of healthcare to all during COVID-19.

Not just in science and technology, but his government had taken lot of initiatives in rural development, Mr. Modi said.

"We are going to further improve the connectivity between villages and highways to take development to the nook and corner of Telangana," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during the event.

"I can see the party gaining strength with every election – from the last Parliament elections to the Greater Hyderabad polls to the byelections later – with youth and women and others showing lot of support," he said.

Thanks gathering

Pausing to take a sip from the glass of water when the crowd went berserk chanting "Modi, Modi", he repeatedly thanked the gathering for the "love and affection" being showered on him.

Sections of the restive crowd repeatedly tried to surge forward, testing the steel and wooden barricades as well as the police and party volunteers.

Selfies with Modi

The effort was to mostly take selfies with Mr. Modi in the backdrop or surge forward for a better look without showing much interest in what the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, was stating.

Earlier, the crowd started chanting "Modi...Modi" noticing three choppers arriving, bringing the Prime Minister, and he was greeted with thunderous applause as he made his appearance on the stage filled with his Union Cabinet colleagues – Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, G. Kishan Reddy – and BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda, national OBC president K. Laxman among other senior leaders.

Manipur landslip death toll rises to 38

A CORRESPONDENT
IMPHAL

On the fourth day after the devastating landslip at Toupul in Noney district, rescue teams used sniffer dogs to locate the bodies of missing Territorial Army personnel and workers at an under construction railway station and tribal village.

The death toll rose to 38 on Sunday with the recovery of three more bodies. Among them are 24 Army personnel and 13 civilians, a defence spokesperson said. The bodies of seven Territorial Army personnel were sent to their hometowns.Heavy rain and fresh landslips in the area have affected search operations.

Up in arms

Fight for life: Police personnel using tear gas to disperse people during their protest against an anti-encroachment drive at Nepali Nagar in Patna on Sunday. • PTI

Death toll in Assam floods stands at 179

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The flood death toll in Assam touched 179 on Sunday with five more people reported drowned or washed away in the last 24 hours. Landslips killed 18 of them. Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said the flood situation eased marginally, bringing down the number of affected districts from 27 to 26.

"About seven lakh people across 1,618 villages remain affected. Out of these, 2.78 lakh people are in 413 relief camps," an ASDMA spokesperson said.

So far, 1.38 lakh houses have been totally or partially damaged. In Silchar, the authorities have cautioned people to be wary of the rising water level in the Barak river, which was flowing slightly above the danger mark of 19.83 metres.

Samyukt Kisan Morcha takes 15 outfits back to its fold

'Rajewal, Chaduni can rejoin if they disband political outfits'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) appears to have resolved its organisational issues by taking back about 16 farmers' organisations who formed the Sanyukt Samaj Morcha (SSM) ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections in January. A meeting of the SKM, held in Ghaziabad on Sunday, decided to expand the SKM's ambit by making it a national platform of various farmers' organisations. The meeting also saw discussions on the two-page guidelines distributed to all constituents. The guidelines speak of SKM's proposed organisational structure and will be adopted at its next meeting, after the discussions within various farmers' associations.

About 200 delegates from 15 States participated in the meeting. The meeting also decided to expel the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangh (KRRS), headed by Chandrasekhar Kodihalli, from the SKM. Mr. Kodihalli was earlier caught in a sting camera operation allegedly taking a bribe to settle a transport strike.

Though most of the Punjab-based farmer organisations are back in the SKM's fold, senior farm leaders Balbir Singh Rajewal, who founded the SSM, and Gurnam Singh Chaduni, who formed a political party, are still being kept out of the SKM. Leaders of the SKM told *The Hindu* that they will be taken back only if they disbanded their political outfits. Mr. Rajewal unsuccessfully contested the Punjab Assembly elections.

The meeting expressed confidence that the SKM's doors will always be open to all farmers and farmers' organisations of the country, and expressed hope that the farmers' struggle against the Centre would become more intense and powerful.

The meeting expressed its disappointment with the Centre and said that neither had a committee been formed on the MSP nor the allegedly false cases registered against farmers during the agitation been withdrawn.

"The government is trying to introduce the Electricity Bill in Parliament. The government is not even ready to consider the biggest demand of the farmers,the legal guarantee of a MSP," the SKM said, adding that it will hold "protest against betrayal" public meetings at the district level from the start of the monsoon session of Parliament on July 18, till July 31, the martyrdom day of Shaheed Udham Singh.

Indians can get ₹10 lakh from relatives abroad

Home Ministry amends FCRA rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has amended certain rules related to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), allowing Indians to receive up to ₹10 lakh in a year from relatives staying abroad without informing the authorities. The earlier limit was ₹1 lakh.

In a notification, the Ministry also said that if the amount exceeds it, the individuals will now have 90 days to inform the government, instead of 30 days earlier.

In a separate notification, the Ministry made five more offences under the FCRA "compoundable" instead of directly prosecuting the organisations or individuals. Earlier, only seven offences under the FCRA were compoundable.

The new rules, Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2022, were notified by the Ministry through a Gazette notification on Friday night. "In the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011, in rule 6, for the words 'one lakh rupees', the words 'ten lakh rupees' shall be substituted; and for the words 'thirty days', the words 'three months' shall be substituted," the notification said.

Rule 6 deals with intimation of receiving foreign funds from relatives. It stated earlier that "any person receiving foreign contribution in excess of one lakh rupees or equivalent thereto in a financial year from any of his relatives shall inform the Central Government within 30 days from the receipt".

Similarly, making changes in rule 9, which deals with application of obtaining 'registration' or 'prior permission' under the FCRA to receive funds, the amended rules have given individuals and organisations or NGOs 45 days to inform the home ministry about the bank account(s) that are to be used for utilisation of such funds.

This time limit was 30 days earlier.

The government has also "omitted" provision 'b' in rule 13, which dealt with declaring foreign funds .

Now, anyone receiving foreign funds will have to follow the existing provision of placing the audited statement of accounts on receipts and utilisation of the foreign contribution, including income and expenditure statement, receipt and payment account, and balance sheet, within nine months of the closure of the financial year on its official website or on the website as specified by the Centre.

APPEAL

I am **Devana Devi aged 17 years old,** suffering from B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. My family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of **Rs.8,00,000/-** to undergo Chemotherapy for 2 years at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. I need your blessings and support. Donations sent by Ch/D.D favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324 / 7338978027.**
E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

Devana Devi

Punjab CM to expand Cabinet today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will expand his Cabinet on Monday as five MLAs are expected to be inducted as Ministers, party sources said on Sunday.

The swearing-in ceremony will take place at the Punjab Raj Bhavan at 5 p.m. on Monday, said an official here.

It will be the first Cabinet expansion of the Bhagwant Mann-led government more than three months after the Aam Aadmi Party stormed to power in Punjab.

With the induction of five more Ministers, the strength of the Mann-led Cabinet will reach 15, including the Chief Minister.

Prospective candidates

Several names of MLAs, including Aman Arora, two-time MLA from Sunam; Sarvjit Kaur Manuke, two-time legislator from Jagraon; Baljinder Kaur, two-time MLA from Talwandi Sabo; Budh Ram, two-time MLA from Budhlada; Inderbir Singh Nijjar who is an MLA from Amritsar South; and Anmol Gagan Mann, legislator from Kharar, are doing the rounds for the ministerial positions.

However, there is no official word from the party on the names of MLAs who will be inducted as Ministers in the Cabinet expansion.

After the AAP formed the government following its resounding victory in the 2022 Assembly elections, 10 MLAs were inducted as Ministers in the Cabinet.

There are 18 berths in the Cabinet, including of the Chief Minister. At present, there are nine Ministers in the Mann-led State Cabinet.

In May, State Health Minister Vijay Singla was sacked from the Cabinet over graft charges.

The Aam Aadmi Party had stormed to power by bagging 92 seats in the 117-member Punjab Vidhan Sabha during the State Assembly polls.

Modi tells BJP to reach out to poor minorities

'Explore social equations among other religious groups too'

NISTULA HEBBAR
HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for reaching out to deprived, non-elite Muslims and other minorities with the development and welfare programmes of the Union government. It was among the issues flagged by Mr. Modi at the national executive meeting of the BJP that concluded in Hyderabad on Sunday.

According to senior sources present at the meeting, Mr. Modi made this intervention when BJP Uttar Pradesh unit chief Swatantra Dev Singh was speaking about the party's victory in the recently concluded byelections in Rampur and especially Azamgarh, both strongholds of the Samajwadi Party (SP) and with significant Muslim populations.

PM Narendra Modi addressing the concluding session of the BJP's national executive meeting in Hyderabad. • PTI

Other equations

Backward Muslims form the majority of the community and refer to themselves as Pasmandas, the non-Syed section. Sources said Mr. Modi said that while there had been many experiments with social equations with regard to caste groups among Hindus such as Dalits, Brahmins and others, it was time that such social equations was explored among other religious groups.

The BJP's win, especially in Azamgarh, has been a surprise as the seat had been held by Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who resigned from his Lok Sabha seat after becoming a member of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly in March 2022.

The Prime Minister reportedly said that the party had done eight years of development work for minorities and marginalised sections and it was time to see how the development dividend had an influence on the beneficiaries.

Though the BJP did not field a single Muslim candidate in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, the State government has one Muslim Minister, Danish Ansari, a Pasmanda Muslim, who was elected an MLC.

'Some parties are in terminal decline'

Don't jeer at them, but learn from their mistakes, Modi tells BJP workers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday told the national executive of the BJP that the "parties that ruled India in the past are in terminal decline" and the BJP should be careful not to fall into the ways of such parties.

The Prime Minister was making his concluding remarks at the national executive of the BJP, which was held over the weekend in Hyderabad.

Key session: National delegates of the BJP coming out after the party's national executive meeting concluded in Hyderabad on Sunday. • NAGARA GOPAL

Former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad briefed presspersons about Mr. Modi's speech at the closed-door meet. Mr. Prasad quoted Mr. Modi as saying that "the country was fed up with dynastic politics and dynastic political parties, and it would be difficult for such parties to survive long".

"Prime Minister Modi said that we [BJP] are accused of being undemocratic whereas several parties have no internal democracy. Sardar Patel*ji* was a Congressman but it was the BJP-led government that built the tallest statue in the world at Kevadia in his honour. We also commemorated the terms of all past Prime Ministers of India with the museum of Prime Ministers, even honouring the contributions of those who had lashed out at us," Mr. Prasad said quoting the Prime Minister.

Qualities for workers

He outlined the qualities that BJP workers and leaders should possess to avoid the fate of many parties in decline.

According to Mr. Prasad, the Prime Minister said that BJP workers should possess *svabhav* (service), *santulan* (balance), *samanway* (coordinaton) and *samvad* (dialogue). He also suggested party leaders and workers to undertake "Sneha Yatras" to foster affection and positivity among the people.

He advised that BJP workers "mustn't jeer at parties in decline, but learn from their mistakes".

Referring to Hyderabad as "Bhagyanagar", Mr. Modi said Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel laid the foundation of "*Ek* Bharat" (United India) by integrating the region into the Union, and it is the BJP's historical obligation now to build "*Shreshtha* Bharat".

In his usual style of coining catchy phrases, Prime Minister Modi said that the party should adhere to "P2 to G2", that is, "pro-people to good governance."

He emphasised that the country should not be made to forget "the dark times of 2004-2014" when "policy paralysis, corruption reigned and the authority of the Prime Minister was undermined."

"Prime Minister Modi said it was the goal of the BJP to take the politics of the country from *tushtikaran* (appeasement) to *triptikaran* (fulfilment)," Mr. Prasad said.

The two-day executive meeting ended on Sunday with Mr. Modi's remarks.

SC clean chit to PM in Gujarat riots case 'historic': Amit Shah

BJP is going to be around for another 30-40 years, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday described as historic the Supreme Court's dismissal of a plea challenging a Special Investigation Team (SIT) report giving a clean chit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Gujarat riots case.

He said it "exposed the conspiracies" by "certain parties, presspersons and NGOs" to malign the Prime Minister.

Amit Shah

Mr. Shah was moving the political resolution at the BJP's national executive meeting held in Hyderabad over the weekend. The resolution was seconded by Karnataka and Assam Chief Ministers Basavaraj Bommai and Himanta Biswa Sarma, respectively.

Briefing the media on the resolution, Mr. Sarma said that Mr. Shah spoke about how "Prime Minister Modi had swallowed the poison in the manner of Lord Shiva and came out of the test shining like gold".

Mr. Shah, he said, compared Mr. Modi's "respect for the Constitution in presenting himself before the SIT without a fuss" with the recent protests by the Congress as the Enforcement Directorate questioned Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi.

'Era of the BJP'

"He also said that dynastic politics, castesim and politics of appeasement were the greatest sins that were holding back the country and that it was BJP that was doing politics of performance and development, as demonstrated by the voting back of BJP governments at the recently held Assembly polls in Goa, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Manipur," Mr. Sarma said.

In fact, this was the response of Mr. Sarma on every question put to him by the media on the killing of tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur by two persons allegedly over insult to Islam and also the Supreme Court's observation against former party spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

"At a platform like the BJP's national executive, we were discussing macro issues, dynastic politics, casteism and appeasement politics as the greatest sins holding back India," Mr. Sarma said. He quoted Mr. Shah as saying that the country was to be a "Vishwa Guru" soon and that the BJP was to be around for at least another 30-40 years and it would be the "era of the BJP".

Asked if Mr. Modi had made an intervention for an outreach towards the minority community, Mr. Sarma said the "aim of all the policies and programmes of the Modi government was *Sab ka Saath, Sab ka Vikas*".

NHRC seeks report on Chakmas' case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the Deputy Commissioner of Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district to submit an action-taken report (ATR) on a complaint alleging harassment and false prosecution of some Chakma villagers.

The complaint was lodged by the Chakma Development Foundation of India (CDFI).

In its order on July 1, the NHRC said the Deputy Commissioner would have to appear in person, if it fails to submit the ATR against the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Changlang's Miao Circle by July 8. The NHRC cited Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 to warn of this step. This is the second time that the NHRC has sought the ATR.

The CDFI had said the Miao Circle authorities had on February 10 falsely prosecuted five people of Dharmapur village for violation of Section 144 of the CrPC and removal of pillars erected between Dharmapur and Neoton villages.

Congress files plaint against anchor for doctored video

The party has also warned of legal action against Rathore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Going on the offensive, the Congress on Sunday filed a complaint against *Zee Hindustan* anchor Rohit Ranjan for running a doctored video of Rahul Gandhi, though the channel withdrew the content and issued a public apology. The party also came down heavily on former Information and Broadcasting Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore for not deleting the doctored video from his Twitter timeline.

The FIR, registered on a complaint by Congress activist Ram Singh Kasnwa at Bani Park Police Station in Jaipur West, is against "Mr. Ranjan and others" under Sections 504 and 505 of the IPC and other provisions.

The news report presented former Congress President Rahul Gandhi's comments on SFI vandalism in Wayanad, Kerala, to look like remarks condoning and forgiving the killers of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur. Though the channel has apologised and withdrawn the news report, it continues to be used by BJP leaders including Mr. Rathore, who has not deleted it yet.

Twitter flagged Mr. Rathore's post with a cautionary remark that said "media is presented out of context".

At a press conference at its headquarters in New Delhi, Congress leader and head of the party's media and publicity Pawan Khera said that the channel had been booked because it was a repeat offender.

By the time it issued an apology, the damage had already been done, especially considering the communally charged environment.

He accused Mr. Rathore of "irresponsibly and mischievously" continuing with the provocation.

Refused to apologise

Mr. Rathore has refused to apologise and continues to brazen it out. In a tweet in Hindi, he said that Mr. Gandhi and the Congress will have to apologise if they don't want to face legal action. "The way these people are trying to divert the direction of the investigation and public attention by making baseless allegations against the RSS and BJP, they will have to face the consequences," he tweeted.

On Saturday, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh wrote to BJP president J.P. Nadda protesting against the doctored video. The party will seek legal action against both the channel and the media groups which circulated it.

Mr. Khera said that the media channel and the BJP were completely in sync because within minutes of the channel putting out the doctored video, the BJP's social media cell had started amplifying it by sharing it.

He said the Congress will take strong legal action against such offenders. "Because anybody who thinks that our decency is our shackle is sadly mistaken. It is our ornament and we are free to take that ornament off and take legal action. Gone are the days we continued to be decent because we have been watching the BJP and its IT cell," he said.

Akhilesh Yadav dissolves SP organisations; U.P. chief spared

Party spokespersons also continue to retain their positions

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

Days after the debacle in the Uttar Pradesh byelections, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday dissolved all the party organisations with immediate effect.

The party's Uttar Pradesh president, Naresh Uttam Patel, has, however, been spared the axe. Party spokespersons also continue to retain their positions.

"The national president of the SP Akhilesh Yadav, except for the State president of the party, with immediate effect dissolved the party's national, State, and district executive bodies. National presidents, State presidents, and district presidents of all the party's organisations, including youth and women's wings, have also been dissolved," the party said.

Akhilesh Yadav

'Action was due'

Though no official reason has been assigned for the decision, it is being seen as a fallout of the party's loss in Rampur and Azamgarh, its traditional strongholds. However, party spokesperson Abdul Hafiz Gandhi said the decision should not be linked with the performance in the bypolls and the action was due after the Assembly poll results. "It is a natural move after the Assembly polls to reinvigorate the party and remove the deadwood," Mr. Gandhi said.

While many leaders who are seen as close to Mr. Yadav have been dropped, Mr. Patel's survival continued to baffle some party workers. In fact, responding to the announcement on the party's Twitter handle, many workers questioned the decision to retain Mr. Patel. Belonging to the Kurmi caste, the OBC leader has been a trusted soldier of the Samajwadi Party since 1992 and became the party president in 2017 when he replaced Shivpal Yadav after the fracas in the Yadav family. Since then he has been seen as a staunch loyalist of Akhilesh.

A party leader requesting anonymity said by retaining Mr. Patel, the SP president has once again shown that loyalty and friendship were more important to him than performance. He cited the example of Sanjay Lathar who was given ticket from the Maant constituency in Mathura despite strong reservations by alliance partner Rashtriya Lok Dal.

"He lost the poll but he was awarded the post of the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council," he said.

The BJP on the other hand said it was the party's internal matter, but asked why Mr. Yadav did not take the responsibility himself. "The party should tell people why it lost elections under Mr. Yadav. Why did Mr. Yadav not take responsibility for the defeats," BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said.

(With PTI inputs)

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क्रमांकः- ए.जी.एच./लेखा(क्रय)/2022/17663 दिनांक: 24.06.2022
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पी.बी.एम. सम्बद्ध चिकित्सालय वर्ग समूह के विभिन्न निर्धारित कार्य बिन्दुओं पर सुरक्षा कार्य जॉब वेल्डिंग आधार पर पूर्ण माह करवाये जाने हेतु आमंत्रित निविदा (दोहरी बिड पद्धति) में इच्छुक बोलीदाता **दिनांक 06.07.2022 से 27.07.2022 सायं 05:00 बजे तक** निविदा डाउनलोड/अपलोड कर सकते हैं। बोली आमंत्रण सूचना की महत्वपूर्ण शर्तें व पूर्ण विवरण **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** तथा **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकती है। ई-बोली की अनुमानित लागत 7.60 करोड़ है।
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बीकानेर (राज.)
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Contract Name	Tender cum e-forward Auction for Licensing of Under Ground Commuter Amenities Centre in Shenoy Nagar Metro Station
Contract No	CMRL/BD/ANC-ASB/2022/482/01
Documents downloaded from	**From 06/07/2022 to 11/08/2022 upto 17.00 hrs through e- tendering website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**
Pre-Bid Meeting Date	20/07/2022 on 11.30 hrs at CMRL Office- Admin Building, Koyambedu,Chennai -107.
Due Date of Bid Submission	**11/08/2022 upto 17.00 hours (IST)**
Date of Bid Opening	**12/08/2022 at 17.05 hours (IST)**
Date & Time of e-forward Auction	Shall be notified separately to qualified bidders

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Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on above mentioned website and will not be published in newspapers.
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Chennai – 600 107 Phone 044- 2379 2000
www.chennaimetrorail.org. E-mail: krishnan.rm@cmrl.in
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Chennai Metro Rail Limited

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग द्वितीय जोधपुर (मुख्यालय बाड़मेर)
क्रमांक:-644-667 दिनांक:- 27.06.2022
निविदा सूचना संख्या : 5 वर्ष 2022-2023
NIB No.PWD2223A0856
राजस्थान के राजपाल महोदय की ओर से भवन निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 01 कार्य जिनकी लागत राशि रु. 666.25 लाख है के लिए ईनिविदीय प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।

ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख	:	1 जुलाई 2022, 9:30 बजे से 21 जुलाई 2022, सायं 06:00 बजे तक

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट पर http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। कार्यशाला यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
1.PWD2223WLOB03020
(सुनील कुमार कालवी)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय, जोधपुर
(मुख्यालय-बाड़मेर)
DIPR/C/8763/2022

Not only to Bengal, Centre owes MGNREGS funds to many other States too

As on July 1, the Union government owes funds to 15 States under the scheme; Ministry of Rural Development says funds delayed by procedural problems

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

As on July 1, the Union government owes funds to 15 States under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), show official data published on the Union Rural Development Ministry website. They included West Bengal, where last week workers who have not been paid for five months took to the streets.

Since January, the Union Rural Development Ministry has not released any funds to West Bengal, citing procedural lapses including absence of social audits to ensure transparency in implementation of the scheme.

The Centre owes ₹7,130 crore to the State, out of which ₹2,800 crore is just by way of wages of the workers.

However, even in the States that do not have these issues, at the end of the first quarter of the financial year, even the first tranche of MGNREGS funds has not yet landed.

Take for example Bihar, a State ruled by an alliance of the Janata Dal(U) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in this financial year, which has accumulated dues of ₹2,611 crore. Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh is the MP for Begusarai in Bihar. The Centre released the last instalment in March, just before the financial year 2021-22 came to a close.

According to officials of the State MGNREGS Department, of the total pending amount, ₹701.28 crore are dues that the Union government owes to the workers in the State. This amount has not been cleared since June 7. This is in direct violation of the MGNREGS, which states that the wages have to be paid within a fortnight.

In slow lane: The delay in the material component of the MGNREGA has a domino impact affecting future projects.

Madhya Pradesh, another BJP-run State, has a similar story. The Centre owes the State ₹1,322 crore. Umakant Umrao, Principal Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development, says that while there has not been any substantial delay in the wage component of the MGNREGA funds, the dues are largely for the material component, of which the Centre bears 60% and the States have to arrange 40%.

The delay in the material component of the MGNREGS has a domino impact affecting future projects. "The gram panchayats usually procure the material from local vendors on credit. Everyone expects to be paid on time, but most of these vendors are tolerant of delay for a few weeks. The problem arises when this delay stretches out for longer, they become reluctant to supply material for any later projects. The work cycle thus gets broken," Mr. Umrao says.

Here is how the delay happens. Chhattisgarh received the last tranche of funds on March 22, 2022, just days before the close of the financial year 2021-22. The Centre then expected the State to settle the payments immediately.

Prior to this March payment, the Centre had released funds in October 2021. The fund payments, despite digital streamlining, remains erratic.

Qaiser Abdul Haque, MGNREGS Commissioner, Chhattisgarh, says the State has not got any further instalment since March 22 and the State still has ₹150 crore dues pending from the previous financial year.

According to senior officials at the Union Rural Development Ministry, the payments are stuck because of procedural delays and

SPECIAL

overhauling of the Public Finance Management System by the Union Finance Ministry, which now has compliance requirements. "Every day, we are clearing the dues of various States and the list of outstanding amounts will shrink," a senior official said.

Rajendran Narayanan, who is the founding member of LibTech India and works at Azim Premji University, said the delay in releasing funds has become an endemic issue. "Instead of providing adequate funds at the start of the financial year, the Union government continues to tinker with the technical architecture of the programme. The workers should not have to pay a price for bureaucratic problems," he says.

The MGNREGS funds has wage, material and administrative components. The wages, borne by the Centre, is transferred to the workers' bank accounts. As on June 29, as per the numbers deduced from data available on the government website, Vijay Ram, researcher at People's Action For Employment Guarantee, says the Centre owes ₹11,097 crore to workers across the country.

IndiGo asked to explain flight delay

SPECIAL CORRESPONDNT
NEW DELHI

Over half of IndiGo airline flights were delayed on Saturday as its cabin crew reported sick to appear for Air India's recruitment drive.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has sought a report from the airline on the matter, a senior DGCA official said.

According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, only 45% of the airline's flights on Saturday were on time – the lowest for any airline on that day.

A source said that the delay was due to IndiGo's cabin crew reporting sick *en masse* on Saturday, when Air India was conducting interviews for flight attendants.

The airline operates 1,600 flights daily and flies every three in five air travellers in the country.

According to the Ministry's website, 45.2% of IndiGo's domestic flights operated on time on Saturday. In comparison, the on-time performances of Air India, SpiceJet, Vistara, Go First and AirAsia India was 77.1%, 80.4%, 86.3%, 88% and 92.3%, respectively, on Saturday.

IndiGo CEO Ronojoy Dutta on April 8 told employees that raising salaries is a difficult issue but the airline will constantly review and adjust wages based on its profitability.

IndiGo, on April 4, suspended a few pilots who were planning to organise a strike against the pay cuts implemented during the peak of the pandemic.

GST decision upsets dairy farmers

Officials of cooperatives say that prices of milk products will be increased with the imposition of tax

A.M. JIGEESH
NEW DELHI

The decision of the GST Council at its 47th meeting held last week in Chandigarh to impose a 5% tax on dairy products such as "pre-packed, pre-labelled curd, lassi and butter milk" and to increase the tax on dairy machinery and milking machines from 12% to 18% has drawn criticism from farmers' organisations and milk cooperatives.

Various cooperatives are waiting for the notification of the Centre to take the next step, while farmers fear that the decision will result in an increase in the price of the products.

R.S. Sodhi, Managing Director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (Amul), said the cooperative was waiting for the notification.

The increase in the GST on dairy machinery will have a direct impact on the price of milk. • THE HINDU

"We do not have any clarity at the moment. We have seen newspaper reports that GST will be levied on curd and buttermilk. We are waiting for the notification," he said, adding that the prices of both the products are likely to rise if GST is imposed on them. The increase in the GST on dairy machinery and milking machines will have an impact on milk price too.

The Pradeshik Cooperative Dairy Federation (PCDF) of Uttar Pradesh, the largest milk-producing State in the country, will meet soon to assess the impact of GST on dairy products and the machinery. "The impact of this will be on the consumers as prices will increase. We have to assess the impact. We will consult with all district unions of farmers and will approach the government after that," PCDF general manager Tapesh Yadav said.

D.P. Singh, All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) leader from western Uttar Pradesh, said the decision will affect farmers directly. "There are a lot of farmers who make curd and buttermilk at their homes and sell it in their neighbourhoods. Such a taxation will affect their livelihood," Mr. Singh said.

Jitender Singh Hudda, farmers' leader from Shamli, said the decision to increase GST on milking machines will impact the mechanisation of milking processes. "The government should also think about nutritional requirements of people," Mr. Hudda said.

AIKS leaders Hannan Mollah and Ashok Dhawale said that the move will adversely affect over nine crore Indian households depending on the dairy sector for their livelihoods.

The AIKS called upon dairy farmers to rise in protest by uniting small entrepreneurs and cooperatives.

Sri Lankan woman dies in Madurai hospital

She was found unconscious on shore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MADURAI

A Sri Lankan woman, Parameswari, 70, of Mannar, who had fled the crisis-hit island nation and clandestinely arrived in Dhanushkodi by boat on June 27, died at the Government Rajaji Hospital here on Saturday night.

The police said the woman, who was found unconscious with her husband, Periyannan, 80, on the shore near the Kothandaramar temple, was admitted to the hospital for treatment of her head injury.

The police said that Parameswari and Periyannan had fled Sri Lanka as they were unable to face the economic crisis. A boatman had dropped them in neck-deep water in the dead of the night.

The couple were found near the Kothandaramar temple. • L. BALACHANDAR

The couple, who had not eaten the previous night, had struggled a lot to reach the shore.

The body would be taken to Tiruchi for the funeral.

Targeting GI tag, Mayurbhanj's superfood 'ant chutney' to find more tables

For Odisha tribes, dishes made of weaver ants offer a cure to many illnesses and are known to boost the immune system and keep diseases at bay

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

People often keep a safe distance from red weaver ants as their sting inflicts a sharp pain and reddish bumps on the skin.

Despite this, weaver ants are popular among the people, mostly of the tribes, of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha for the mouth-watering dish made of them – the *Kai* chutney.

This savoury food item, rich in proteins, calcium, zinc, vitamin B-12, iron, magnesium, potassium, sodium, copper, fibre and 18 amino acids, is known to boost the immune system and keep diseases at bay.

In Odisha, scientists are now fine-tuning their research to make a presentation for the Geographical Indications (GI) registry of *Kai* chutney. Applied under food category, the GI tag will help develop a structured hygiene protocol in the preparation of *Kai* chutney for standard wider use.

Geographical Indications labels enhance the reputation and value of local products and support local businesses.

Lip smacking: Weaver ants are abundantly found in Mayurbhanj throughout the year. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Weaver ants, *Oecophylla smaragdina*, are abundantly found in Mayurbhanj throughout the year. They make nests with leaves of host trees.

"When required, leafy nests of ants are plucked from their host trees and collected in a bucket of water before sorting and separation from leaves and debris. Larval and adult stages of the ants are preferred and are either eaten raw or turned into 'chutney' by mixing them with spicy ingredients," said Jagannath Patra, a scientist at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK).

The chutney is prepared by mixing and grinding salt, ginger, garlic and chilly and is sold by tribal people in rural markets.

"The tribes of Mayurbhanj consume *Kai* chutney or soup to get rid of flu, common cold, whooping cough, to increase appetite and enhance eyesight naturally without corrective eye wear and to treat joint pain and stomach diseases, and for the development of a healthy brain and the nervous system," Deepak Kumar Mohanty, a senior scientist with the KVK, said.

"The tribal healers also prepare medicinal oil by dipping the collected *Kais* in pure mustard oil. After 30 days, this oil is used as baby oil and externally used to cure rheumatism, gout, ringworm infection and skin diseases. So, it is the only panacea for the tribes," the application for GI registry says.

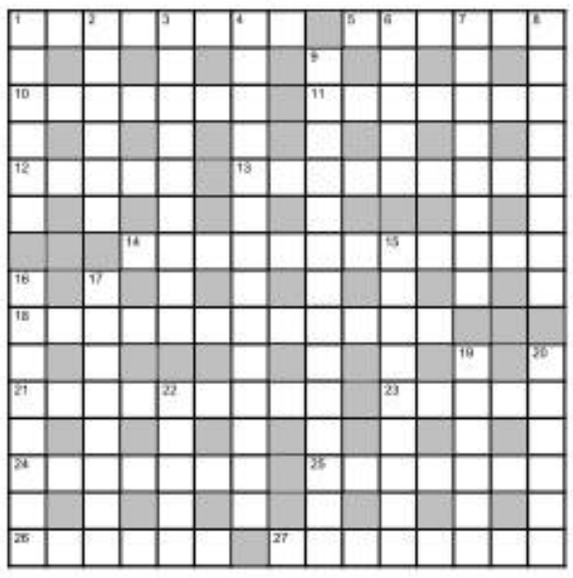
"The *Kai* family consists of three category members – workers, major workers and queens. Workers and major workers are mostly orange-colored. *Kais* feed on small insects and other invertebrates, their prey being mainly beetles, flies and hymenopterans," it said.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 13599

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 Stock taking starts promptly, contraption only to check flow online (8)
5 Compete with us – run and he'll watch (6)
10 Outrage as it goes up in smoke (7)
11 Heavy responsibility having to dig up the mineral (7)
12 Material cover for wife-husband (5)
13 Cut 75% of the money, it's very important (9)
14 I cruise around Macau representing and helping the court (6,6)
18 Dominated above, followed later (12)
21 One in France and two in England finally separated (9)
23 Paper covered large field (5)
24 A setter gets into trouble with, say, a mammal, reptile or a bird (7)
25 Mobile phone, or is it for a loser? (2-5)
26 It's middle-sized with fancy rates, not even genuine (6)
27 Police force and mere turnaround (8)

Down

1 Very accommodating – clue for a religion? (6)
2 Choice before, say, baby bloomer (6)
3 Can damsel in distress celebrate this? (9)
4 Managing a crew precisely, they can be very unpleasant (6-8)
6 Beguile umpires – that takes some guts (5)
7 Question over horse, it's a mystery (8)
8 Diamonds by choice, picked up and set facing each other (8)
9 Equivalence of letters... (14)
15 ...are hunted at random and brought up (9)
16 Friend to allow board game to be set up and regulate it (8)
17 Drops of French perfume absorbed (8)
19 Obstruct as she will get electrocuted (6)
20 Surface close to one, I have some work (6)
22 About to become a killer at sea (1-4)

SUDOKU

6		5	1		2		9	7
			3			8	4	
					9			
		2		9	3	6		
	5						1	
		7	2	1		5		
			7					
	6	4			8			
7	3		6		5	9		1

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13598

L	O	V	E	I	N	A	M	I
I	D	S	M	N	R	I	A	
M	O	R	E	S	A	M	S	T
A	T	U	T	U	A	D	P	
B	R	I	D	E	W	E	L	L
E	C			U	A	M	E	N
A	M	E	N	D	F	R	A	I
N	S	E				L	A	S
		S	C	A	R	C	O	L
C	D	L	O	A			N	N
A	O	R	T	A	M	I	N	O
R	Y	I	A	T	O	S	E	
P	Y	R	O	M	A	N	I	A
U	O	E	I	T	S	E	C	
S	O	T	D	I	A	M	A	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	2	4	3	6	1	7	8	5
7	6	8	4	2	5	9	3	1
3	1	5	9	8	7	2	4	6
2	7	6	1	3	4	5	9	8
5	8	1	2	9	6	3	7	4
4	3	9	5	7	8	6	1	2
6	5	3	8	1	9	4	2	7
8	4	2	7	5	3	1	6	9
1	9	7	6	4	2	8	5	3

FAITH

Sixteen Ayurvedic texts

There were many Ayurvedic texts, but not all texts are available now. Brahma asked 16 persons to write texts on Ayurveda, said Velukkudi Krishnan, in a discourse. Each of them wrote a text. Dhanvantari, an avatara of Lord Narayana, wrote Cikitsa Tattva Vijnana; Divodasa wrote Cikitsa Darpana; Kasi raja wrote Cikitsa Kaumudi; The two Aswini Kumaras wrote Cikitsa Saara Tantra. The Aswini Kumaras are the physicians of the Devas. The Pandava brothers were each born with the grace of different devatas. Thus, Arjuna was born through the blessing of Indra, Bhima through the blessing of Vayu and so on. Nakula and Sahadeva were born through the blessings of the Aswini Kumaras, and true to their inheritance, Nakula and Sahadeva too were well versed in medicine. Nakula wrote an Ayurvedic work called Vaidyaka Sarvasva; Sahadeva wrote Vyaadhi Sindhu Vimardhana. Yama, the god of death, also wrote a book on Ayurveda! Another name for Yama is Arti, and Arti wrote Jnaanaarnava.

So, Dhanvantari, Divodasa, Kasi Raja, Aswini Kumaras (two in number), Nakula, Sahadeva and Arti together wrote eight works. Another eight works were written by others. Sage Chyavanah wrote Jeeva Daana; Janaka wrote Vaidhya Sandeha Bhanjana; Budha wrote Sarvasaara; Jaabala wrote Tantra Saara; Jaajali wrote Vedanga Saara; Pyla wrote Nidaana, exploring the causes of diseases; Karatha wrote Sarvadhara; and sage Agastya wrote Dhvaidhanirnaya Tantra.

An Ayurvedic treatise called Bhavaprakasa says its purpose is to increase the life span of human beings. And yet, while the purpose of Ayurveda is to give human beings longevity, physicians and surgeons are not masters of life. Longevity or otherwise is in the hands of Lord Narayana.

ASK US

K. NITYA KALYANI

Q. My wife took two life insurance policies with her being the policy owner and my daughter, the life assured. My wife recently passed away and when I requested them for ownership change, they refused, citing my age. My daughter already has a few policies and is not interested in continuing with more commitments. Under the circumstances kindly advise me how to take it forward.

V.BALASUBRAMANIAN

A. Many pieces of information are missing from your question that prevents a suitable response or solution. So, let me answer based on some assumptions.

By owner if you mean policyholder or proposer, yes, that cannot be changed. If you mean nominee, that also cannot be changed since the right to nominate was with your wife, the proposer/ policyholder.

If your daughter was a minor when the policy was taken then there would have been an assignee who would now become the policy owner and can pay the premiums.

If that is not so, ask the insurance company how you can keep the policy valid by paying premiums until maturity. If paying premium is not going to be an option, you have to ask the company about making the policy paid up or if there is a way to surrender it. In the former option, the policy will continue with a lower sum assured and in the latter option, it will cease and a truncated surrender value will be paid to the nominee. In case you are referring to nominee as policy owner, the proceeds will go to the legal heir of your wife and your insurance company will help you go through the process for it.

Q. I took two policies, one in my in my son's name and the other, in my daughter's name for 20 years each and the premium comes to about ₹19,800 per month. My son is 28 and daughter, 23. Is this a prudent investment?

SRIDHAR M.K.

A. The objective of an investment determines its suitability and utility and should form the basis of the choice. The policy you mention is a life insurance plus savings plus money-back policy with a limited premium paying term. To answer your own question, please validate the returns of the policies and their life coverage with your children's ages and life stages in mind.

The benefits of the policy are a cash flow (in the form of money-back) that starts after the premium-paying term is over and continues till maturity, the maturity benefit itself which is equal to the sum assured plus loyalty bonuses and, of course, life cover through the policy period. The tax offset for premium and tax-free nature of all payments under the policy are also benefits.

If these are what you wanted, so far so good. Please research if you could have got a better return by combining a term policy, a recurring deposit on a cumulative basis for the same period as the premium paying term and a fixed deposit for that maturity amount for a period equivalent to the policy term less premium paying term. Adjust both principal and returns for the tax benefits available in the life insurance investment. Adjust also for projected loyalty bonuses on the policy. The life insurance logic per se of this investment may be worth a relook. At the core of it, a life insurance policy for somebody in their twenties seems irrelevant until they have dependents, unless of course latching on to a lower premium rate is the advantage. Also, a policy that covers them only up to their forties seems inadequate in terms of time.

Q. My wife and I are senior citizens. I took medical insurance for both of us. Kindly clarify the following:
1. My son's company covers medical insurance for parents also. Can we claim at a time from both the companies?
2. Is it wise to discontinue my policies?
3. My insurance company raises premium annually though I am not claiming, why?
4. I learn that premium for the senior citizens will not change, why?

A. KRIPANIDHI

A. You can claim from any or all of multiple hospitalisation policies, but the payments will be mutually exclusive as they will be against bills and will add up, at the most, to your actual expenses. Having said that, opt for claiming under more than one policy only if your claim exceeds the sum insured limit, or you will lose the benefits accumulated for making no claims.

It would be prudent to continue with your policies for a few good reasons. One is that your son may change his job and the terms of corporate health cover at the new place may not be the same. There may be a gap in coverage. He may leave his employment and become an entrepreneur or student, in which case, he himself would be looking at buying independent hospitalisation insurance.

The second reason to continue is that you may or may not get coverage later if you want it because of your age. If you do, your sum insured will be restricted to begin with and your waiting periods for pre-existing conditions may start all over again.

As for the question about increasing premium rates for health insurance, insurance pricing is based on collective coverage matching group risk profiles. Each year, many people pay premium to foot the medical expenses claims of a few plus the expenses of the insurance company offering the scheme.

When costs go up, the insurance company reworks the premium rates for everybody so as to sustain the insurance cover and be in a position to pay higher claims in future.

In addition, premium rates go up by age slabs reflecting the higher chance of illness, hospitalisation and claims. Or else, much of the premium being paid by the 30-year-olds would go towards the relatively higher claims of the senior citizens, whereas, with an age-related premium, one is paying a rate that is more risk appropriate for one's age group. Premium rates for senior citizens will keep changing, just like it will for everybody else.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Timing market risk

There are too many parameters plying in the market simultaneously

GAURAV MASHRUWALA

"Is this the right time to invest?" "Where should I invest in current times?" These are common questions people ask. Basically, they are asking questions related to timing the market. Firstly, let me be honest, no one knows the real answer. If anyone knew the real answer, he would be the richest person.

Role of emotions

The risk of timing the market comes from the fact that there are too many parameters plying in the market simultaneously. Some of these could be genuine facts, say, for example, an announcement by the government on demonetisation.

Invariably, markets over or under react to such announcements. Emotions play in the minds of investors and reactions are based on those emotions. Investments should never be undertaken based on emotions. Let us look at our own self. When an announcement about demonetisation was made, what was our state of mind then? How has it changed over a period of time? And, what is it today?

Leave aside our mind, in the market, emotions of a large number of people are plying simultaneously. Not only that, there are emotions and reactions over many known, unknown and assumed parameters. If we keep making and modifying our investments based on these emotions, what will happen?

Guesswork

Market timing is like guesswork. Secondly, our own requirements are not necessarily in congruence with the situation within the market. Suppose there is a marriage coming up in the family of an investor. If seven or ten days before the marriage, there is a crash in the stock or gold market because of some harsh policy announcement by the government, then how many of us will cancel the marriage?

Causing havoc

A few years ago, a middle-aged investor consulted me. He had invested a large amount of money in the stock market; this money was earmarked for his daughter's higher education abroad. He was hoping that the market would pick up and at an appropriate time, he would be able to liquidate his investment and fund the expenses. Unfortunately, he never got the opportunity. He was very wealthy and could easily manage to arrange for the money from some other investments. But all of us may not have that luxury.

Actual returns are dependent on how long we stay invested. What matters is 'time in' the market and not 'timing' the market

Logically, we should time our requirements, not time the market.

Guessing it right

Last year, I was addressing a gathering of management students. One of the girls from the audience asked me, "Gaurav, I am always able to make investments at the right time but not able to exit at the right time. What should I do?" She further continued, "I purchase at a very good price but after that, the market falls." What she did not realize was that success in market timing required the investor's predictions to be right twice - once at the time of purchase and once again at the time of sale.

Guessing right once is difficult enough; doing it twice is virtually impossible. Some people may be able to do that once in a while but to keep doing it always is impossible. Also, being successful in timing the market once in a while is more likely to be a fluke then any actual skill. While timing the market, we end up misinterpreting a fluke as skill and then repenting.

In reality, actual returns are dependent on how long we stay invested. What matters is 'time in' the market and not 'timing' the market.

HDFC Bank IPO took place in March 1995. The face value of each share was ₹10. Today, after two stock splits, the face value is ₹1. We can check the market value today. Many argue "how many of the IPO investors are still holding on to the original shares. Personally, I know many of them. However, that may be rare but let us accept the reality, only few generate immense wealth by investing in equity investing.

Experience does not stay

Late Parag Parikh, renowned and respected intermediary in equity market and establisher of PPFAS Mutual Fund, often used to say "unfortunately in equity market, experience does not stay". According to him, every time there is a rally in the market, new set of investors enter. They feel they are investing, actually they are punting. They say they are long-term investors but in reality they are not. Often in downturn, they exit and never return back. In next upswing, a new set of investors come and the same story gets repeated.

Only those who continue to stay invested learn from the cycle and capitalise on their experience over very long term. Equity investing, or for that matter any form of investing, is mind game and not money.

(The writer is a financial planner and author of Yogic Wealth)

THINK INVESTOR : SIP

SIPs for all reasons

With Systematic Investment Plans, you can achieve life goals while making profit

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

The importance of systematic investment plans (SIPs) is widely discussed when stock markets plumb lows as in recent times. In this article, we discuss two related concepts – SIPs and rupee-cost averaging (RCA).

SIPs versus RCA

There is a subtle difference between SIP and RCA. SIP is set up as an automatic debit from your monthly income. The objective of an SIP is to have a disciplined approach to saving. In contrast, RCA is a SIP set up for a short period. The key difference is that in RCA you have a choice between making lump-sum investment and spreading the investment over a pre-defined period.

For instance, you can set up a SIP for eight years on an index fund or an exchange-traded fund (ETF) if you are pursuing an eight-year goal.

In contrast, if you have ₹2 lakh in surplus cash, you may choose to invest the entire money now (lump-sum investing) or spread the investment over four months of ₹50,000 each (RCA).

There are certain factors that you must consider when setting up an SIP – a date for the SIP, the frequency and the length of the investment. A SIP is best set up on the day when your income is credited to your bank account. That way, you save first and spend the rest. Also, there is enough money in the bank account to process the SIP. You should typically have one SIP every month for each goal. Setting up more than one SIP every month is unlikely to complicate your investment process, but there may not be great benefits in doing so.

Right time: A SIP is best set up on the day when your income is credited to your bank account. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

SIPs for trading

Even as you invest to achieve life goals, you should aim to capture short-term movements in the market. The most optimal way is to trade based on technical analysis. But not everyone is comfortable doing so. Setting up short-term SIPs with pre-determined rules can be an alternative to trading using technical analysis.

For instance, you may set up SIPs on Nifty ETF and Gold ETF for 12 months and take profits if the investment carries pre-defined, unrealised gains. It is best to define these gains in absolute terms than as percentages.

Note that your SIP should continue even as you take profits. The objective is to continually invest without timing the market.

Should you reinvest these trading gains or place the amount in a bank deposit? You could place the gains in a fixed deposit if you are within four years of achieving a life goal. Why? If your equity investment in your goal-based portfolio suffers losses during the last four years of the time horizon for the goal, you could use the deposit to bridge the shortfall. Otherwise, you could use the gains to increase your investment amount in your trading portfolio when the SIP is due for renewal.

Conclusion

SIPs are operationally efficient as you do not have to manually invest every month. The automated process also reduces regret as you distance yourself from taking active decisions each month. The biggest factor when setting up an SIP is to determine the investment amount. This is a function of the time horizon for your life goal, the amount you are willing to save towards achieving the goal and the importance of the goal.

You should set up the SIP through a direct plan with the asset management company (AMC). That way, you save on expenses that are otherwise paid as commissions when you use third-party service providers. You could reduce your expenses further by setting up an SIP on an ETF through your brokerage firm. Finally, check your investment statement each month to ensure that the units are correctly credited into your account.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

TECH TRAIL: PRECIOUS METALS

On a weak wicket

B.KRISHNAKUMAR

Precious metals continued to lose their sheen in June and closed on a weak note for the third month in succession. Similar to the recent months, the strengthening of the U.S. dollar and the rise in U.S. treasury yield affected the sentiment towards precious metals.

As a result, Comex gold fell 2.2% in June to close at $1,807.3 an ounce. Comex silver saw a much steeper cut of 6.2% to settle at $20.35 an ounce.

In the domestic market, MCX gold futures fared relatively better with a moderate cut of 0.65% to close at ₹50,517 per 10-gm. MCX silver futures dropped 4.8% to settle at ₹58,887 per kg, at the end of June.

The weakening of the rupee against the U.S. dollar helped mitigate the impact of fall in gold in the domestic market. The hike in import duty on gold and silver announced on July 1, would also influence the domestic prices.

As anticipated last month, the Comex gold price ruled weak in June and also reached the then-mentioned target of $1,770-1,780. The short-term outlook is positive and a move to $1,850-1,860 appears likely. This outlook would be invalidated if the price falls below $1,780.

Though Comex gold could see some recovery in the near term, the overall trend remains weak, and the expectation is that the price would resume its downtrend on the completion of the short-term rise.

The price action in Comex silver was also in line with expectations. As observed last month, the price ruled weak and also dropped well below the target zone of $20.20 - 20.40. The recent fall has pushed the price to the oversold region and a short-term bounce is likely. A move above $20.1 would confirm short-term strength and the price could then rise to $20.85-21.

In the domestic market, the recent price action in MCX gold suggests the possibility of a short-term outlook rise. The price could rise to ₹52,750-53,000 per 10-gm. The outlook would be invalidated if the price falls below ₹49,900.

MCX silver, too, could see a short-term rise. A move above ₹58,600 would confirm the positive outlook and the price could then head to the short-term target of ₹59,500-60,000. A fall below ₹57,300 would invalidate the positive outlook.

To summarise, the precious metals have reached critical support levels and a short-term bounce is likely. Unless the price falls below the support levels mentioned above, expect a rise to the target zone.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst / trader. The views and opinions are based on an analysis of short-term price movement in gold and silver futures at Comex and Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice.)

Life insurance term plan premium

Male: 30 Years, Sum Insured - ₹1 crore, Cover up to - 70 Years

Insurance company	Plan name	Maximum cover up to (Years)	Annual premium ₹
LIC OF INDIA	Tech Term*	80	14,122
Aditya Birla Capital	Life Shield Plan	85	12,998
Aegon Life	iTerm Insurance Plan	100	9,114
Bajaj Allianz	Smart Protect Goal	85	10,911
Bharti AXA	Premier Protect Plan	75	11,092**
Canara HSBC OBC	iSelect Star Term Plan	99	11,605
HDFC Life	Click2Protect Plus	85	12,601
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	15628
India First Life	e-Term Plan	80	8,260
Kotak Life Insurance	Kotak e-Term Plan	75	9,558
Max Life Insurance	Smart Term Plan	85	11,800***
PNB Met Life	Mera Term Plan Plus	99	12,272
Reliance Nippon Life	Digi Term	80	11,012
SBI Life	eShield	80	15,070
TATA AIA Life	Maha Raksha Supreme	100	12,980

*Maximum policy term is 40 years | **Work-X4 coverage up to 65 years for age 30 years
***Max Life offers additional 5% discount for first year

Health insurance premium

Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium (₹)
Care Health	Day Care Treatments	NCB Super Premium	10,069
	Family Floater option	Care	9,153
	Health Checkups	Care with unlimited recharge	9,840
	No claim bonus	Care plus	11,755
	Restoration of cover	Care Heart	14,195
	No claim bonus	Care with Enhance	10,783
	No claim bonus	Care with (NCB and PED Waive-off Rider)	11,442
	Pre and Post HospitalisationCoverage	NCB Super Premium with UAR	10,755
Niva Bupa Health	Day Care Treatments	Health ReAssure	9,590
	Hospitalization at Home	Health Pulse Enhanced	10,161
	Family Floater option	Health Companion	9,862
	E-consultation	Health Premia	16,436
	Alternate Medicine	Go Active	11,747
Star Health	Family Floater option	Medi Classic	9,661
	Restoration of cover	Star Comprehensive	11,476
	Wellness Benefits	Young Star Gold Plan	8,389
	Existing Illness cover	Diabetes Safe Plan-II	19,122
	Restoration of cover once a year	Woman care	12,154
	Free health checkup	Young Star Silver Plan	7,133
Aditya Birla Health	Cashless hospitals	Activ assure Diamond	7,919
	Day Care Treatments	Activ Health Platinum Enhanced	9,074
	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Platinum Enhance (Diabetes)	17,912
	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Platinum Enhance (Asthma)	13,170
	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Plat. Enhance (Hypertension)	19,889
		Activ Health Platinum Essential	7,474
	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Platinum Essential (Diabetes)	15,072
	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Platinum Enhance (Asthma)	11,240
	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Plat. Enhance (Hypertension)	16,587
Chola MS General	Day Care Treatments Hospital Room Eligibility Hospitalization at Home Alternate Medicine	Flexi Health	7,807

Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium (₹)
Digit Healthcare Plus	Day Care Treatments	Option 2 - Early Cover	8,064
	Family Floater Option	Option 3 - Super care	7,616
	Restoration of cover	Super care Option (Direct)	6,473
Bajaj Allianz General	Hospital Room Eligibility Wellness Benefits Family Floater Option No claim bonus	Individual Health Guard Bajaj Health Guard - Platinum	12,213 13,570
SBI General Insurance	Free health checkup	Arogya Supreme	13,180
Royal Sundaram General	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine	Lifeline supreme	**8,578**
TATA AIG	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Free health checkup	Medicare Medicare Premier	9,820 12,176
Universal Sompo General	Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine	Complete Healthcare Insurance Privilege	12,241
Raheja QBE	Hospitalization at Home Restoration of Cover Hospital Room Eligibility	Health QuBE Basic Health QuBE SuperSaver Health QuBE Comprehensive	4,947 4,011 5,787
Edelweiss General	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine	Edelweiss Health Insurance- Gold (Health 241 Add-on) Edelweiss Health Insurance Gold	10,916 8,733
Liberty General	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility	Basic Elite Supreme	9,579 10,777 13,337
Oriental Insurance	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home	Individual Mediclaim Policy	12,684

Data as on July 2, 2022
Source: LIC of India, www.policybazaar.com

For a 30-year-old male, non-smoker, for sum insured of ₹10 lakh living in a metro city

Russian shelling kills 'many' in Sloviansk

Moscow accuses Ukraine of firing three cluster missiles at the city of Belgorod near the border

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SIVERSK

Shelling from multiple rocket launchers killed "many" people on Sunday in Ukraine's eastern city of Sloviansk, which has come under attack from advancing Russian troops, its Mayor said.

"Shelling from multiple rocket launchers on Sloviansk, the heaviest for a long time. There are 15 fires. Many dead and wounded," Vadim Lyakh said in a video published on Facebook.

Tetyana Ignachenko, a spokeswoman for the Donetsk region to which Sloviansk belongs, told Ukrainian media that the strikes left "six dead and 15 wounded".

Further south, the town of Kramatorsk, which is the administrative centre of Ukraine's Donbas, was hit for the second day in a row by Smerch rockets, according to the town's Mayor Oleksandr Goncharenko. The strikes caused no casualties, he said.

In crumble: Rescue specialists work at the site of a destroyed residential building after the blasts in Belgorod. •REUTERS

Important targets

Sloviansk and Kramatorsk are key targets for Moscow, after it claimed control of Lysychansk in the northeast on Sunday.

Later in the day, the Ukrainian Army retreated from Lysychansk as Russia claimed a major victory by seizing control of the entire eastern Luhansk region.

The Ukrainian withdrawal followed weeks of fierce fighting and marked a decisive breakthrough for Moscow's forces more than four months after their invasion and after turning their focus away from the capital Kyiv.

Russian forces had seized Lysychansk's twin city of Severodonetsk last week following weeks of intense fighting.

On Sunday, Russia accused Ukraine of firing three cluster missiles at the city of Belgorod, near the Ukrainian border and late on Saturday, Belarus said it intercepted Ukrainian missiles.

Moscow said its anti-aircraft defences shot down three Tochka-U cluster missiles launched by "Ukrainian nationalists" against Belgorod, close to the Ukrainian border. Belgorod Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said 11 residential buildings and 39 houses were damaged. Russia has previously accused Kyiv of conducting strikes on Russian soil, particularly in the Belgorod region.

Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko accused Kyiv of provocation and said his Army intercepted missiles fired at his country by Ukrainian forces "around three days ago".

Belarus, a Russian ally, supported the February 24 invasion and has been accused by Kyiv of launching its own attacks on Ukrainian territory. Mr. Lukashenko denied any involvement in a recent cross-border incident, which would represent an escalation of the conflict.

A road map

Leaders from dozens of countries and international organisations gather in the Swiss city of Lugano on Monday for a conference on Ukraine's reconstruction. The aim is to provide a road map for the war-ravaged country's recovery. President Volodymyr Zelensky has said "colossal investments" would be needed as 10 regions of Ukraine had been affected in the war, with many towns and villages needing to be "rebuilt from scratch".

Mass testing is the new normal in China's capital

It is the key weapon in maintaining 'zero-COVID' status

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

"Have you eaten yet?" was famously the traditional greeting favoured in the alleyways of old Beijing. The current flavour as far as greetings go for many residents of China's capital is "have you tested yet?"

A regularised mass testing regime, which couples the ruling Communist Party's sprawling presence at the grassroots with a sweeping high-tech health monitoring system, has emerged as the country's key weapon in maintaining its "zero-COVID" status amid recurring outbreaks of more transmissible variants.

The capital has, this past week, reported zero cases on most days, recovering after a gruelling campaign against an Omicron outbreak earlier this year. But that Beijing managed to do so while avoiding the protracted, months-long lockdown in Shanghai that brought China's financial capital to a screeching halt, has reinforced the leadership's belief that "zero-COVID" is still an achievable goal, regardless of China being the only country in the planet still pursuing it while most other nations have returned to some normalcy and opened their borders.

President Xi Jinping said as much during a visit to Wuhan, where the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak began in early 2020, on June 29, saying that living with the virus, or "herd immunity", would have left China with "unimaginable consequences". Chinese health experts say opening up would mean mass deaths given the high number of unvaccinated elderly, looking at Hong Kong's recent wave as a warning sign. Early lockdowns of neighbourhoods where cases are detected is one key aspect of the strategy. But most important for detection is regularised mass testing of every resident. As rapid antigen tests (RAT) are seen to be both less reliable and harder to monitor, the solution was setting up a sprawling network of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) booths.

People waiting in line for a swab test in Beijing. •AP

In Beijing, the booths have been set up so that every resident can find one within a 10-15 minute walk. The tests are free, and the results are uploaded into every resident's 'Health Kit'. Most establishments require a test result within the past 72 hours for entry. This includes access to even residential compounds.

Getting along

Most residents have, at least so far, taken it in their strides. "As long as the lines are short," shrugged one office worker in the busy Chaoyangmen neighbourhood near the Foreign Ministry. "And if it keeps us safe."

The tests are mild oral swabs, and not the more invasive nasal PCRs that might have triggered a different reaction. Beijingers now share tips about where to get fast tests and the best times of day to beat the queues.

The approach is now being followed in most Chinese cities, all of which requires an enormous infrastructure to process millions of daily samples, through pooled sampling. The National Health Commission said in April close to 52 million samples were processed every day. A pooled test would include dozens of samples for early screening.

How long the system continues – which comes with an enormous expense for the already cash-strapped local governments – remains unclear. At least until the Party Congress for later this year, when Mr. Xi will begin a third term, is a wide expectation.

The broader public support for "zero-COVID" is harder to gauge. The leadership's bet is that keeping the economy ticking and avoiding a wave of cases will make it a less bitter pill to swallow. Ensuring that will mean avoiding a recurrence of Shanghai, and thus keeping in place the mass testing regime. Many Chinese are also unaware of how much normalcy has returned to the rest of the world, as China remains closed off.

Also unclear is how long the tolerance for this now normalised activity will endure. When the *Beijing Daily* reported last week that the city's Party Secretary Cai Qi referred to continued pandemic controls for five years, the response on social media was one of exasperation and exhaustion. The authorities quickly clarified that the five-year reference was incorrect and added by the newspaper. Mr. Cai, they added, did not offer a time frame.

Shots fired in shopping mall in Copenhagen

Several people injured; one arrested

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COPENHAGEN

The Danish police said Sunday that several people were shot at a Copenhagen shopping mall.

The Copenhagen police said that one person has been arrested in connection with the shooting at the Field's shopping mall, close to the city's airport. Police tweeted that "several people have been hit," but gave no other details.

Images from the scene showed people running out of the mall, and Denmark's TV2 broadcaster posted a photo of a man being put on a stretcher. Witnesses said people were crying and hid in shops. One of the shoppers reported hearing "really loud bangs".

People seen running out of the shopping centre in Copenhagen. •AFP

A huge presence of heavily armed police officers was on hand, with several fire department vehicles also parked outside the mall.

27 missing as floating crane sinks in China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING

As many as 27 people were reported missing after a floating crane sank off the coast of south China's Guangdong Province which was hit by typhoon Chaba, the search and rescue centre said on Sunday.

So far, 38 rescue vessels have been dispatched and rescue aircraft made 14 trips to search for the missing people, covering an area of 700 square nautical miles where waves were three to four metres high.

Chaba, the third typhoon of the year, made landfall in the coastal area of Maoming City in Guangdong on Saturday.

Bhutan to lift five-day quarantine for travellers

'Test-and-Go' system to be introduced

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Bhutan will lift the mandatory five-day quarantine for all incoming travellers from Monday, the Prime Minister's Office of the Royal Government of Bhutan said on Sunday. Officials in Thimphu acknowledged that the strict measures caused inconvenience to travellers but were necessary to "protect" the country and communities from COVID-19.

"Since the transition into Phase II, we have continuously seen a low positivity rate (1.46%), as well as zero fatalities and hospitalisations until date. Therefore, taking into consideration these positive developments, a new arrangement of "Test-and-Go" system (mandatory stay home/hotel quarantine for 24 hours or until negative RT-PCR result is declared) will be instituted effective from July 4, 2022, where the stay home/hotel duration will be strictly monitored," the official announcement said.

Travellers, however, will have to abide by strict protocols. While entering Bhutan, an RT-PCR test sample will be collected from the visitors and they will have to provide vaccination certificate or "evidence of COVID-19 infection in the six months prior to the visit."

SPORT

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka Women vs India Women: 2nd ODI, FanCode, 10 a.m.
England vs India: 5th Test, day 4, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3 p.m.
Wimbledon: S5 Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m.
TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Axelsen and Ratchanok clinch titles

KUALA LUMPUR

Denmark's World No. 1 Viktor Axelsen thrashed Japan's Kento Momota 21-4, 21-7 in the final of the Malaysia Open here on Sunday. Indonesia's Ratchanok Intanon defeated Chen yu Fei of China 21-15, 13-21, 21-16 to claim the women's title. AFP

Former India goalkeeper Sudhir passes away

NEW DELHI

Former India international EN Sudhir, who played as a goalkeeper for India in the 1970s, died in Mapusa, Goa, on Sunday morning. Sudhir is survived by a son and daughter.

Akhil finishes fourth and sixth at European GT

MISANO ADRIATICO (ITALY)

Akhil Rabindra, driving for Racing Spirit of Leman, took the fourth and sixth spots in the silver category in the third round of the European GT4 series at the Misano World Circuit during the weekend. Akhil and teammate Tom Canning, driving a Aston Martin Vantage GT4, finished 30 laps in 1:00:47.894 in Race 1 and 33 laps in 1:00:45.622 in Race 2.

Windies-Bangladesh first T20I washed out

ROSEAU (DOMINICA)

Persistent showers forced a no-result in the first T20 International between the West Indies and Bangladesh here on Saturday.

The scores: Bangladesh 105/8 in 13 overs (Shakib 29, Nurul 25, Shepherd 3/21) vs. WI. *No result.* AFP

Ali Kedami — running for a cause

He travels the world taking part in ultramarathons for his ailing daughter

GENERAL

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

Athletes run for a variety of reasons. Some for health and fitness, some for camaraderie and friendship and some for the sense of self-worth high achievement brings.

For Lebanon's Ali Kedami, it's a cause. The ultrarunner's daughter, Saria, developed epilepsy as a five-year-old and since then the 60-year-old has been running for her.

Now, in the 17th year of his running career, the undying cause brought him to the city over the weekend for the IAU 24 Hour Asia and Oceania Championship.

"When my daughter was five, she was not able to walk," Kedami says, on the sidelines of the event. "At that point I decided to run for her.

"After a few months she started walking, and then she wanted to run [as well]. Now she is 22, but still has some problems. But she is better. Sport helped me, and helped my daughter. It gave me the opportunity to be here and represent my country.

Ali Kedami with daughter Saria. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"It helps me meet people from many countries. In India everybody has a smile. They give me positive vibrations. This is why I like sport."

Kedami's is a multi-faceted personality. He is also an artistic metal worker and a painter.

But running is what gives him a sense of purpose. He has successfully completed the Oman UTMB, one of the toughest races in the world, covering 137km over 8,000m of altitude in less than 44 hours, and finished the difficult Lebanon Mountain Trail – a 460km route – in the fastest known time of six days 12 hours and 15 minutes.

"I run a lot in Lebanon for charities and NGOs. My last run back home, I ran three days and three nights without sleeping – 308km in three days. And every single time I run for my daughter."

> **In India everybody has a smile. They give me positive vibrations. This is why I like sport**
>
> KEDAMI

All of this is doubly difficult because Kedami lives alone in Lebanon, away from his wife and daughter who are in France in the hope of building a better future.

Tough times

"It is difficult staying apart. But the goal is more important than our situations – to have something for my daughter.

"My job in Lebanon is down because of the economic situation. People don't think about [having] artistic metal work at home [in these times]. I am more of a painter now. But my spirit is artistic, metal or pencil. And more than anything, I am proud to be a father to my daughter," he says, his eyes welling up.

RACING

Enigma claims the Chief Minister's Cup

BENGALURU: P. Shroff-trained Enigma (P.S. Chouhan up) won the Chief Minister's Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Sunday (July 3). The winner is owned by Mr. Mehernosh H. Deboo, Mrs. Auzila M. Deboo & Mr. Sultan Singh.

1. BRAVE DANCER PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25: WAR EAGLE (Arvind K) 1, Southernaristocrat (Kirtish B) 2, Lightning Flame (A. Imran) 3 and Super Kind (Salman K) 4. 11-1/2, 3/4 and 5-1/4. 1m, 27.26s. ₹36 (w), 15, 58 and 12 (p), SHP: 222, THP: 47, FP: 3,236, Q: 1,453, Trinella: 5,481 and 923, Exacta: 84,734 and 36,314. Favourite: Lightning Flame. Owner: Mr. Nanda Kumar N. Trainer: Kishan Thomas.

2. ROYAL TERN PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: LAUTERBRUNNEN (Angad) 1, Speed Seven (Likith) 2, Ocean Dunes (K. Nazil) 3 and Gold Gray (Siddaraju) 4. 5-3/4, 1 and 1. 1m, 14.05s, ₹72 (w), 16, 16 and 28 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 59, FP: 633, Q: 152, Trinella: 2,195 and 1,439, Exacta: 11,461 and 4,298. Favourite: Air Blast. Owners: Mr. Rohit Raman & Mr. J.S. Lokesh. Trainer: Narayana Gowda.

3. PADDIWICK PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): RAPIDUS (Akshay K) 1, Angel Bliss (K. Nazil) 2, Bruce Almighty (T.S. Jodha) 3 and Geographique (Zervan) 4. 3-1/4, 5 and 1/2. 1m, 27.17s. ₹48 (w), 15, 25 and 85 (p), SHP: 89, THP: 138, FP: 576, Q: 321, Trinella: 15,108 and 4,316, Exacta: 71,303 (carried over) and 30,558. Favourite: Royal Glory. Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Mukul A Sonawala and Mr. Aditya P Thackersey. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

4. CHIEF MINISTER'S CUP (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): ENIGMA (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Golden Oaks (Sandesh) 2, Multifaceted (Trevor) 3 and Smashing Blue (Akshay K) 4. 5, 1/2 and 3-1/4. 1m, 10.85s. ₹105 (w), 30 and 28 (p), SHP: 48, THP: 77, FP: 699, Q: 285, Trinella: 1,449 and 311, Exacta: 4,725 and 2,025. Favourite: Multifaceted. Owners: Mr. Mehernosh H. Deboo, Mrs. Auzila M. Deboo & Mr. Sultan Singh. Trainer: P. Shroff.

5. FIRE HAVEN PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65: STAR GLORY (Suraj) 1, Garamond (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Lord Vader (Bhawani S) 3 and General Patton (Akshay K) 4. 2-3/4, 2-1/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 12.82s. ₹31 (w), 17, 17 and 12 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 58, FP: 129, Q: 66, Trinella: 294 and 106, Exacta: 1,071 and 522. Favourite: Lord Vader. Owner: Mrs. Rohini Thuppal. Trainer: S. Narredu.

6. JULY PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: JOHNNY BRAVO (Nikhil N) 1, Acaster (Srinath) 2, Embosom (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Lycurgus (J.H. Arul) 4. Not run: Southern Power. 1, 1 and 1/2. 1m, 40.85s. ₹99 (w), 34 and 23 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 40, FP: 851, Q: 292, Trinella: 2,260 and 1,199, Exacta: 12,966 and 8,335. Favourite: Queen Regnant. Owners: Mrs. Anneka Darashah, Mr. Eugene Aloysious Mayne, Mr. Santhosh P and Mrs. Kokila E. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

7. ROYAL TERN PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: EXTRAORDINARY (Arvind K) 1, Chul Bul Rani (Salman K) 2, Aherne (T.S. Jodha) 3 and Divine Blessings (S. Saqlain) 4. Not run: Armory. 3-1/4, 3/4 and 3-3/4. 1m, 14.04s. ₹45 (w), 16, 22 and 16 (p), SHP: 70, THP: 46, FP: 569, Q: 310, Trinella: 1,566 and 689, Exacta: 11,686 and 10,016. Favourite: Aherne. Owner: Mr. C.V. Prasad Rao. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

Jackpot: ₹1,06,558 (carried over); runner-up: 15,222 (three tkts.); treble (i): 13,159 (one tkt.); (ii): 2,172 (11 tkts.).

Indians take the honours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Indian Ultrarunners won the men's individual and team titles in the IAU 24H Asia and Oceania championships at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday.

Led by Amar Singh Devanda, who managed a personal best of 258.418 km to outshine the field, India clocked a combined total of 739.959 km over the scheduled 24 hours to clinch the gold medal. Australia (628.405) and Chinese Taipei (563.591) clinched the second and third spots. Amar was followed home by Saurav Kumar Ranjan (242.564) and Geeno Antony (238.977), making it a clean sweep for India in the individual honours.

In the women's section, India finished second, running 570.70 km, behind Australia (607.63 km). Taipei was third with 529.082.

Taipei's Kuan Ju Lin (216.877 km) finished first in the women's individual category, followed by Australia's Cassie Cohen (214.990) and Allicia Heron (211.442).

Parul sets new National mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Parul Chaudhary smashed the National record at the Sound Running meet in Los Angeles and became the first Indian to clock a sub-nine minute time in the women's 3000m.

The 27-year-old covered the distance in 8:57.19 to finish third on Saturday night.

Parul broke Suriya Loganathan's record of 9:04.5s, set six years ago in New Delhi.

Eight selected for MiniGP World Series

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Eight children, including two girls, in the age group of 10 to 14 made it to the first batch of riders to participate in the FIM MiniGP World Series India 2022 following two sessions of tryouts and evaluation by experts at the Meco Kartopia track, here on Saturday.

The full grid of 15 riders will be announced later this month after a similar exercise in north India.

Going places: The riders selected in Bengaluru.

Selected riders: Nandanan Mahendran (Chennai), Rakshith Dave (Chennai), Jinendra Sangave (Kolhapur), R. Kabilesh (Chennai), Shreyas Hareesh (Bengaluru), Rehbar Islam Baktoo (Delhi), Aleena Shaikh (Bengaluru), Anastya Pol (Bengaluru);
Reserve: Dev Agasthya (Bengaluru).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Narrow win for Wings Baldwin Intl.

Wings Baldwin International FC edged out Williams Women's FC 1-0 in the KSFA Women's 'B' division football league here.

The results:
Wings Baldwin International FC1 (U. Bharali 30) bt Williams Women's FC 0; Legends De Sporting 6 (Abhirami Vadivel 1, 18, 21, 40, M. Sandhya 9, 20) bt Alchemy International 0.

Aarnav and Hiya claim under-13 crowns

N. Aarnav and Hiya Singh won the boys' and girls' under-13 titles respectively in the Karnataka State Ranking table tennis tournament here.

The results (finals): Girls: Under-11: Tanishka Kapil bt R. Mihika 11-1, 11-1, 11-1.

U-13: Hiya Singh bt Ayushi Godse 8-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-7.

Boys: U-11: Abinav Prasanna bt Shriram Kiran 11-5, 11-3, 11-8.

U-13: N. Aarnav bt Atharva Nawarange 6-11, 11-9, 5-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-7

Non medalist singles: Mohnish Nandi bt Pranav Verma 9-11, 11-3, 11-4, 11-7.

SAT Sports tennis training centre turns 10

SAT Sports tennis training centre, the brainchild of former Indian Davis Cupper Prahlad Srinath, celebrated their 10th anniversary here.

Around 1,200 kids have trained at SAT Sports, and the centre has organised around 75 national ranking tournaments for various age groups.

Siraj puts India in the driver's seat despite Bairstow's century

Pujara remains unbeaten as visitors stretch lead to 257 with seven wickets in hand

Bold approach: Bairstow's counter-attack brought him his third hundred in as many Tests. • GETTY IMAGES

INDIA IN ENG

REUTERS
BIRMINGHAM

India tightened its grip on the rearranged fifth Test against England, with an overall lead of 257 and seven wickets in hand, despite Jonny Bairstow's belligerent hundred, at stumps on day three at Edgbaston on Sunday.

A charged-up Bairstow smashed a rapid 106, his third hundred in four innings, providing the bedrock for England's 284 in reply to India's 416.

The visitors were 125 for three at stumps in their second innings with the dour Cheteshwar Pujara (50) and the daredevil Rishabh Pant (30) in the middle.

Earlier, an on-field altercation with India's Virat Kohli appeared to fire up Bairstow who played some breathtaking shots to rescue England.

Ben Stokes was dropped twice in the morning session, but the England captain could not capitalise on the reprieves and departed for 25.

Bumrah took a stunning diving catch to send back Stokes off Shardul Thakur.

Bairstow brought up his century with a boundary off Shardul and broke into an animated celebration – jumping in joy with his helmet off and his arms aloft.

Siraj claimed four for 66 for India while Bumrah returned figures of three for 68.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
416 in 84.5 overs

ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS
Alex Lees b Bumrah 6 (9b, 1x4), Zak Crawley c Gill b Bumrah 9 (17b, 1x4), Ollie Pope c Shreyas b Bumrah 10 (18b, 2x4), Joe Root c Pant b Siraj 31 (67b, 4x4), Jonny Bairstow c Kohli b Shami 106 (140b, 14x4, 2x6), Jack Leach c Pant b Shami 0 (5b), Ben Stokes c Bumrah b Shardul 25 (36b, 3x4), Sam Billings b Siraj 36 (57b, 4x4), Stuart Broad c Pant b Siraj 1 (5b), Matthew Potts c Shreyas b Siraj 19 (18b, 3x4, 1x6), James Anderson (not out) 6 (10b, 1x4); Extras (b-16, lb-5, w-1, nb-13): 35; Total (in 61.3 overs): 284.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-16 (Lees, 2.6 overs), 2-27 (Crawley, 4.1), 3-44 (Pope, 10.6), 4-78 (Root, 22.6), 5-83 (Leach, 25.3), 6-149 (Stokes, 37.4), 7-241 (Bairstow, 54.1), 8-248 (Broad, 55.4), 9-267 (Billings, 59.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 19-3-68-3, Shami 22-4-78-2, Siraj 11.3-2-66-4, Shardul 7-0-48-1, Jadeja 2-0-3-0.

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Shubman Gill c Crawley b Anderson 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Cheteshwar Pujara (batting) 50 *(139b, 5x4)*, Hanuma Vihari c Bairstow b Broad 11 *(44b, 1x4)*, Virat Kohli c Root b Stokes 20 *(40b, 4x4)*, Rishabh Pant (batting) 30 *(46b, 4x4)*; Extras (lb-7, w-1, nb-2): 10; Total (for three wkts. in 45 overs): 125.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-4 (Gill, 0.3), 2-43 (Vihari, 16.3), 3-75 (Kohli, 29.5).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Anderson 14-5-26-1, Broad 12-1-38-1, Potts 8-2-20-0, Leach 1-0-5-0, Stokes 7-0-22-1, Root 3-1-7-0.

Gill goes early

When India came out to bat in the second innings, James Anderson removed Shubman Gill in the first over and Stuart Broad got rid of Hanuma Vihari, but Pujara dug in to frustrate England.

Kohli (20) unfurled some silken drives before being done in by the extra bounce generated by Stokes. Billings had spilled the catch but an alert Joe Root grabbed the ball before it could hit the ground.

Rohit tests negative

Rohit Sharma is finally out of isolation after having tested negative for COVID-19 and will now be available for the white-ball series beginning with the first T20I in Southampton on July 7.

Maximum impact: Siraj was the top wicket-taker for India with four wickets. • GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Groenewegen takes third stage; van Aert in lead

SØNDERBORG

Dutch rider Dylan Groenewegen of Team BikeExchange-Jayco clinched the 182km third stage of the Tour de France in a photo finish on Sunday as Belgian Wout van Aert took second place to retain the overall leader's yellow jersey. Monday is a rest day before the riders tackle the mountains for the first time on Tuesday. REUTERS

Jehan finishes seventh and eighth in Formula 2

SILVERSTONE

Indian racer Jehan Daruvala endured a tough weekend in the Silverstone round of the Formula 2 championship, finishing seventh in the feature race. The 23-year-old was eighth in the sprint race on Saturday. Jehan took home seven points during the weekend. PTI

India to field third team at Chess Olympiad

CHENNAI

India will field a third team in the Open section of the 44th Chess Olympiad to be held at Mamallapuram from July 28, the AICF said in a release on Sunday. With a record 187 teams registering for the Open section and to even out the number of entries as per norm, FIDE has approved a third team from the host. PTI

Jamuna enters 54kg final

NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Jamuna Boro beat home boxer Anel Sakysh 5-0 to enter the women's 54kg final of the Elorda Cup here on Sunday. In the final, Jamuna will meet Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova, who beat Sakshi Choudhary 5-0 in the other last-four clash.

Manisha set to play in Women's CL

CHENNAI

Manisha Kalyan is set to become the first Indian to play in the UEFA Women's Champions League after the 20-year-old forward signed a two-year deal with Cypriot club Apollon Ladies. Manisha, who won two IWL titles (2019-20, 21-22) with Gokulam Kerala, is also an India international with 17 caps and four goals to her name.

Football coach Alex Ambrose sacked

NEW DELHI

The Indian women under-17 team's assistant coach Alex Ambrose has been sacked for alleged sexual misconduct, S.Y. Quraishi, a member of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) overseeing the All India Football Federation, said on Sunday. The former India international was suspended and called back from Norway for the "misconduct" with a player during a training and exposure tour of Europe. PTI

India looks to seal ODI series

Openers under the lens; Harmanpreet on song

INDIA IN SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PALLEKELE

India will look for stability from the top-order as it aims to seal the three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka in the second game here on Monday.

"Our approach will be the same as before, we have to win the series 3-0 and dominate all the matches. Whatever plans and preparations we have made we need to execute," all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar said at the pre-match press conference.

Despite the comfortable win, the Indian think tank will be a little concerned about the form of the openers Smriti Mandhana and young Shafali Verma.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, on the other hand, seems to be relishing her role, scoring runs and providing breakthroughs with her part-time off-spin.

Medium-pacer Renuka Singh excelled with figures of three for 29, however, it was Deepti Sharma's off-breaks that broke Sri Lanka's back in the first ODI.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, will hope skipper Chamari Athapaththu returns to form.

The teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Capt.), Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), S. Meghana, Deepti Sharma, Poonam Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Simran Bahadur, Richa Ghosh (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Renuka Singh, Taniya Bhatia (wk) and Harleen Deol.

Sri Lanka: Chamari Athapaththu (Capt.), Nilakshi de Silva, Kavisha Dilhari, Vishmi Gunaratne, Ama Kanchana, Hansima Karunaratne, Achini Kulasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Hasini Perera, Udeshika Prabodhani, Oshadi Ranasinghe, Inoka Ranaweera, Sathya Sandeepani, Anushka Sanjeewani, Malsha Shehani and Tharika Sewwandi.

Match starts at 10 a.m. IST.

Relishing the role: Wearing the captain's armband seems to have spurred Harmanpreet on. • TWITTER/@BCCI WOMEN

We want to win the series 3-0

POOJA VASTRAKAR
India all-rounder

All-round Harshal stars in India's win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NORTHAMPTON

India will enter the upcoming limited-overs series against England on a positive note after defeating Northamptonshire by 10 runs, thanks to an impressive display by the bowlers in the second warm-up match here on Sunday.

India had earlier defeated Derbyshire by seven wickets.

After Harshal Patel lifted India from a precarious position to 149 for eight with a 36-ball 54, the visiting bowlers fired in unison to bowl out the county side for 139.

Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan, Yuzvendra Chahal and Harshal picked up two apiece as Northamptonshire fell 10 short.

The scores:

India 149/8 in 20 overs (Harshal Patel 54, Dinesh Karthik 34, Brandon Glover 3/33) bt Northamptonshire 139 in 19.3 overs (Saif Zaib 33, Arshdeep Singh 2/29, Avesh Khan 2/16, Harshal Patel 2/23, Yuzvendra Chahal 2/25).

Spirited India holds England

Savita's team fails to utilise quite a few penalty corners

HOCKEY WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMSTELVEEN

The Indian women's hockey team played out a hard-fought 1-1 draw against England in its opening match of the FIH World Cup here on Sunday.

England took the lead through Isabella Petter in the ninth minute before Vandana Katariya equalised for India in the 28th minute.

The Indians had a shy at the goal as early as in the first minute in the form of a penalty corner, but it went waste. Minutes later, skipper Savita made a fine save in front of the goal to deny the English women.

Going ahead

After a neck-and-neck fight, it was England which took the lead through Petter who neatly deflected in a ball from outside the 'D'.

India responded brilliantly and soon secured back-to-back penalty corners but Gurjit Kaur was first denied by the post and then by English goalkeeper Hinch.

The Indians continued to press hard on the English defence and secured their third penalty corner in the 17th minute, but once again Gurjit faltered. Three minutes later, Savita again came to India's rescue to keep her side in the match.

In the 28th minute, India secured its fourth penalty corner and Vandana sounded the board from a rebound. India secured another penalty corner just at the stroke of half time, but Hinch made a brilliant save.

England started brightly after the change of ends but it was India who managed a shot at the goal, only to see Neha Goyal's shot being saved by Hinch.

Thereafter, England dominated the rest of the third quarter but failed to translate its efforts into goals. The close tussle continued in the fourth and final quarter but yielded no result.

India will next play China in its Pool B match on Tuesday.

Joyous bunch: The Indian players celebrate after Vandana, second from left, scored the equaliser. • FIH

Maria rallies past Ostapenko, meets Niemeier

Nadal in cruise mode against Sonego; Tsitsipas brands Kyrgios 'a bully' after losing stormy clash

AGENCIES
LONDON

Germany's Tatjana Maria continued her dream run at Wimbledon, fighting back from a set down and saving two match points to beat former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko 5-7, 7-5 and reach the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam for the first time.

It was the biggest career win for the mother of two who returned to action from maternity leave just under a year ago. She will play Jule Niemeier in the last eight after the German beat Briton Heather Watson 6-2, 6-4.

Maria, ranked outside the top 250 in March, said the victory was especially sweet given her breaks from the game. "It makes me so proud to be a mum, that's the best feeling in the world," she said. "I love my two kids... to be able to do this together, it makes it really special."

Maria, at 34 the oldest player left in the women's draw, lost a tight opening set before saving two match points at 4-5 in the second. With the crowd firmly behind her, the German capitalised on an error from the 12th seed to go up 6-5 in a see-saw third set before serving out the match.

Late on Saturday, Rafael Nadal, the champion in 2008 and 2010, reached the fourth round for the 10th time with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 win over Lorenzo Sonego. Nadal did not face break point until he dropped serve in the eighth game of the third set, his focus possibly affected by a stoppage to close the Centre Court roof. He quickly broke back and sealed victory.

Stefanos Tsitsipas branded Nick Kyrgios "a bully" with an "evil side" after losing a stormy third-round clash. "It's constant bullying, that's what he does," said the Greek fourth seed. "He bullies the opponents. He was probably a bully at school himself. I don't like bullies.

"He has some good traits in his character as well, but he also has a very evil side to him, which if it's exposed, can really do a lot of harm and bad to the people around him."

The mercurial Australian prevailed 6-7(2), 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (7) in a match during which both players were warned by the umpire.

Emotional ride: Kyrgios was involved in a battle with himself and Tsitsipas during their third-round match. • REUTERS

THE RESULTS

Fourth round: Women: Bouzkova (Cze) bt Garcia (Fra) 7-5, 6-2; Maria (Ger) bt 12-Ostapenko (Lat) 5-7, 7-5, 7-5; Niemeier (Ger) bt Watson (GBr) 6-2, 6-4.

Men: Goffin (Bel) bt 23-Tiafoe (USA) 7-6(3), 5-7, 5-7, 6-4, 7-5; 9-Norrie (GBr) bt 30-Paul (USA) 6-4, 7-5, 6-4; 10-Sinner (Ita) bt 5-Alcaraz (Esp) 6-1, 6-4, 6-7(8), 6-3.

Mixed doubles: Second round: 6-Sania (Ind) & Pavic (Cro) w.o. Dodig (Cro) & Chan (Tpe).

On Saturday: Men: Third round: Kyrgios (Aus) bt 4-Tsitsipas (Gre) 6-7(2), 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (7); 2-Nadal (Esp) bt 27-Sonego (Ita) 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

Galaxy of stars

Centre of attraction: Wimbledon champions assembled at a special ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of Centre Court on Sunday. Roger Federer, second from right, hopes to play 'one more time' on the hallowed turf where he has won a record eight singles titles. • AFP

Maiden victory for Sainz

Zhou in frightening crash on opening lap

Close shave: Zhou's car catapulted upside down and bounced back to finish semi-upright in a stationary position. • REUTERS

BRITISH GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SILVERSTONE

Carlos Sainz claimed his maiden Formula One win on his 150th start at a thrilling British Grand Prix on Sunday.

The Ferrari driver kept his cool to beat Red Bull's Sergio Perez and Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes.

World champion Max Verstappen finished seventh but retained the lead.

"I don't know what to say, it's amazing. First race win 150 races later with Ferrari in Silverstone, it's a very special day," said Sainz, who won from pole. Behind Sainz there was an epic battle between Perez, Hamilton and Charles Leclerc.

Carnage

The 10th round of the season began with carnage at the first corner after a horror crash as Zhou Guanyu's Alfa Romeo flipped upside down and hurtled over the circuit's safety barrier.

George Russell's Mercedes, Alpine's Esteban Ocon, Yuki Tsunoda (Alpha Tauri) and the Williams of Alex Albon were also involved.

Zhou's car was catapulted upside down, the Chinese rookie's head saved by his car's roll hoop-halo as it skidded off across a gravel trap and over the tyre barriers into the catch fencing, where it bounced back to finish semi-upright.

The results (top-10): 1. Carlos Sainz Jr (Ferrari) 1h 21m 20.440s, 2. Sergio Perez (Red Bull) +3.779, 3. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) 6.225, 4. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) 8.546, 5. Fernando Alonso (Alpine) 9.571, 6. Lando Norris (McLaren) 11.943, 7. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 18.777, 8. Mick Schumacher (Ferrari) 18.995, 9. Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin) 22.356, and 10. Kevin Magnussen (Haas) 24.590.

Standings (top-6): Drivers: 1. Verstappen 181 pts, 2. Perez 147, 3. Leclerc 138, 4. Sainz Jr 127, 5. George Russell 111, 6. Lewis Hamilton 93.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 328, 2. Ferrari 265, 3. Mercedes 204, 4. McLaren 73, 5. Alpine 67, 6. Alfa Romeo 51.

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MARUTI SUZUKI AUTHORISED DEALERS: BENGALURU: **KALYANI:** MYSORE ROAD, BANNERGHATTA ROAD, NAGARBHAVI, BANASWADI, LALBAGH, RAMANAGARAM, CHANNAPATNA, KANAKPURA, BANNERGATTA, BIDADI: 95909 90011. **KATARIA:** KANAKAPURA ROAD, PH: 78990 40000. **MANDOVI:** BASAVANAGUDI, COX TOWN, BASAVESHWARA NAGAR, YELAHANKA, MALUR, KOLAR, GOURIBIDNUR, PH: 97400 30077. **PRATHAM:** HSR LAYOUT, BELLANDHUR, ANEKAL, MAGADI, CHINTAMANI, MULBAGAL, DODDABALLAPUR, SARJAPUR VILLAGE, PH: PH: 9591991199. **RNS MOTORS:** YESHWANTHPUR, BOMMANAHALLI, NELAMANGALA, PH: 9538965804. **SURAKSHAA CAR CARE**: ELECTRONICS CITY, KORAMANGALA, BANGARPET, ATTIBELLE, SRINIVASAPURA, HAROHALLI PH: 8884442299. **VARUN MOTORS:** MALLESHWARAM, HEBBAL, Infantry Road, Rajanakunte PH: 78991 00200. **BIMAL:** ITPL ROAD, YELAHANKA, BANASHANKARI, VARTHUR, OLD AIRPORT ROAD, HOSKOTE, CHIKKABALLAPUR, DEVANAHALLI, BAGEPALLI, SIDLAGHATTA, VIJAYPURA, H CROSS, BUDIGERE, GUDIBANDA, HESARGHATTA PH: 080-30693069. TUMKUR: **SAKETH:** TUMKUR, CHITRADURGA, TIPTUR, KUNIGAL, GUBBI, HOSADURGA, CHALLAKERE, PH: 9980211099. MYSORE: **FRIENDLY MOTORS**: MYSORE, MADIKERI, GUNDULPET, NANJANGUD, PERIYAPATNA, HD KOTE, HUNSUR PH: 7349256550. MYSORE: **MANDOVI:** MYSORE, MANDYA, MADDUR, KR PET, CHAMRAJNAGAR, GONIKOPPAL, KUSHAL NAGAR, SOMVARPET, NAGAMANGALA PH: 91087 31263. SHIMOGA: **SHRUTI:** SHIMOGA, SAGAR, THIRTHAHALLI PH: 98453 99169. **SHRUTI:** CHIKMAGALUR, KADUR, MUDIGERE PH: 7337850412. HASSAN: **VENKAT MOTORS:** HASSAN, SAKALESHPUR, ARSIKERE, BELUR, CHANNARAYAPATNA, PH: 91486 73003.

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